



REI HIROE

It's volume 8. It's *Lagoon*'s longest story arc so far.
I hope you can keep up.



Rei Hiroe was born on December 5, 1972. After working at a game company, he debuted as a mangaka in 1993. He has been an active illustrator and dojinshi, and has created many titles released through the dojin community. He is best known for his works, *Hisuikyokutan* and *SHOOK UP!* (both currently available in new formats published by Shogakukan) and his first artwork collection, *Barrage*.

BLACK LAGOON

008

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by
REI HIROE

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
BLACK LAGOON is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers.
This volume contains graphic violence, strong language, nudity, adult situations,
drinking, smoking, ass-kicking, law breaking, gun-love, running with scissors and
just about everything your mother ever told you not to do.
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LAGOON





Dutch

SKIPPER OF THE OF THE *BLACK LAGOON* AND LEADER OF THE CREW. DUTCH STAYS COOL NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GET. HIS BACKGROUND INCLUDES MILITARY SERVICE, INCLUDING A TOUR IN VIETNAM.

Benny

THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE HIGH-TECH ELECTRONICS ONBOARD THE *BLACK LAGOON*. BENNY ESCAPED FROM THE U.S. AND IS ON THE RUN FROM BOTH THE FBI AND THE MAFIA.

Crew of the Black Lagoon

Rock

A FORMER JAPANESE SALARYMAN, WHOSE REAL NAME IS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA. ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY AFTER THE CREW OF THE *BLACK LAGOON* ABDUCTED HIM, ROCK LATER JOINED HIS CAPTORS.

Revy

THE *BLACK LAGOON*'S TOP GUNSLINGER, NICKNAMED "TWO HAND." HER FOUL MOUTH AND EXTREMELY SHORT FUSE USUALLY GET HER IN LOTS OF TROUBLE.

STORY

ROCK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA, WAS A FACELESS EMPLOYEE AT A LARGE JAPANESE COMPANY. AFTER BEING ABDUCTED BY THE CREW OF THE *BLACK LABOON* AND ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY, HE TAKES ON THE NAME 'ROCK' AND FINDS A NEW LIFE IN THE SHADY BUSINESS OF SMUGGLING.

ROBERTA SHOWS UP IN ROANAPUR ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING THE U.S. SPECIAL FORCES UNIT THAT MURDERED HER BOSS AND GARCIA'S FATHER, DIEGO LOVELACE.

MEANWHILE CHANG, STILL UNCERTAIN OF THE AMERICANS' INTENTIONS, USES ROCK TO LOCATE ROBERTA TO PREVENT ANY INTRUSION INTO ROANAPUR BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.



Roberta

LOVELACE FAMILY MAID. EX-FARC TERRORIST ONCE FEARED AS 'THE BLOODHOUND OF FLORENCIA.'



Garcia

NEXT HEAD OF THE LOVELACE FAMILY, ONE OF THE 13 FAMILIES OF SOUTH AMERICA. SON OF DIEGO LOVELACE.



Fabiola

LOVELACE FAMILY MAID. ROBERTA'S SUBORDINATE.



Caxton

LEADER OF THE U.S. UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE SPECIAL FORCES UNIT GREY FOX.

Abrego

COLOMBIAN MAFIOSO. SCHEMING TO MURDER ROBERTA.



Balalaika

BOSS OF THE THAI BRANCH OF 'HOTEL MOSCOW,' A NOTED RUSSIAN CRIMINAL GANG. BALALAIKA ONCE WAS A CAPTAIN IN THE RED ARMY OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.



Chang

BOSS OF THE ROANAPUR BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG TRIAD CRIMINAL GANG.

Eda

A NUN AT THE CHURCH OF VIOLENCE. ACTUALLY A CIA AGENT.



Sawyer

CLEANER OF DARKNESS. A CHAINSAW IS HER WEAPON OF CHOICE.



Lotton

FREELANCE ASSASSIN. ENJOYS MAKING AN ENTRANCE FROM HIGH PLACES.



Shenhua

FREELANCE ASSASSIN. CALLED 'CHINGLISH GAL' BY REVY.

BLACK LAGOON

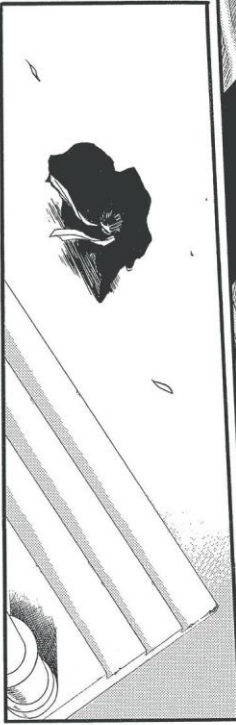
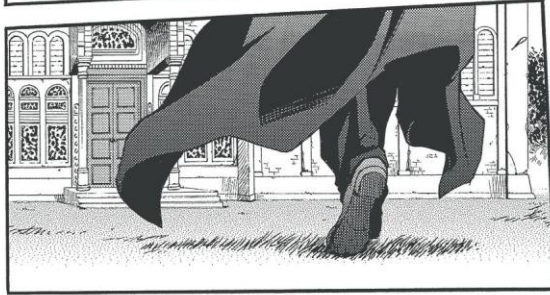


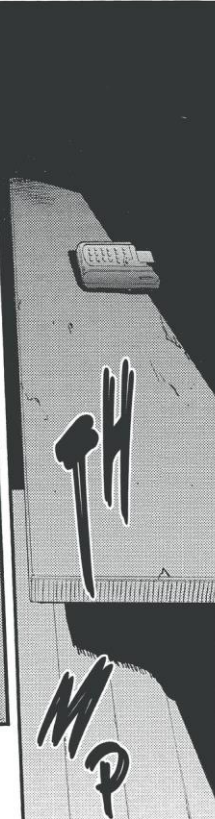
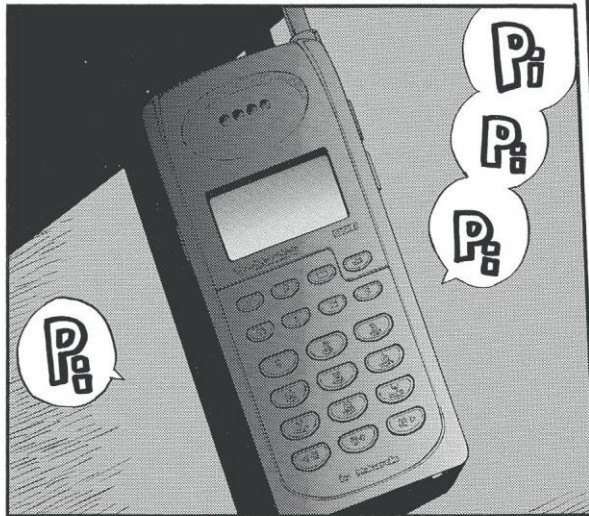
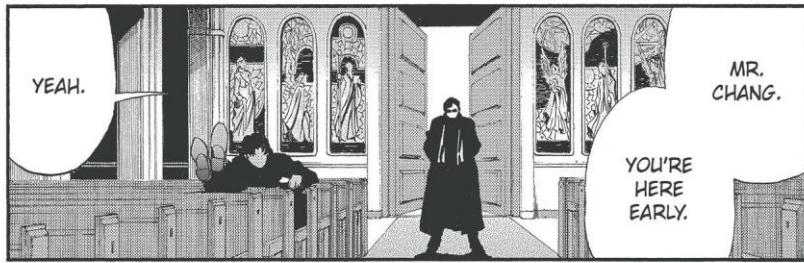
STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE

008

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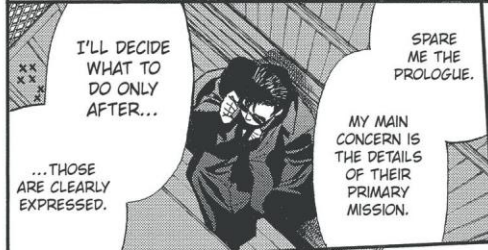


THAT'S ONE
OF MY
VIRTUES.

LET'S CUT THE
FLATTERY AND
CHIT CHAT AND
GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS.

YOU'RE
RIGHT ON
TIME, AS
USUAL...

...PAK
TZE SIN*
CHANG.

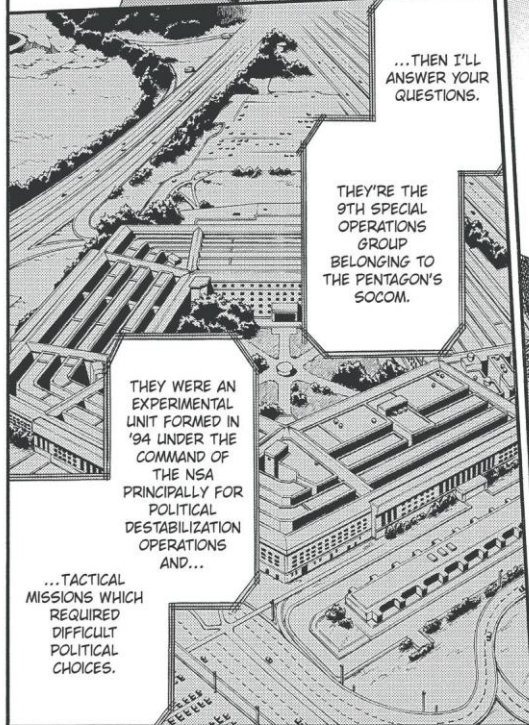


I'LL DECIDE
WHAT TO
DO ONLY
AFTER...

...THOSE
ARE CLEARLY
EXPRESSED.

SPARE
ME THE
PROLOGUE.

MY MAIN
CONCERN IS
THE DETAILS
OF THEIR
PRIMARY
MISSION.



...THEN I'LL
ANSWER YOUR
QUESTIONS.

THEY'RE THE
9TH SPECIAL
OPERATIONS
GROUP
BELONGING TO
THE PENTAGON'S
SOCOM.

THEY WERE AN
EXPERIMENTAL
UNIT FORMED IN
'94 UNDER THE
COMMAND OF
THE NSA
PRINCIPALLY FOR
POLITICAL
DESTABILIZATION
OPERATIONS
AND...

...TACTICAL
MISSIONS WHICH
REQUIRED
DIFFICULT
POLITICAL
CHOICES.



YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE NEVER
DO HAVE TIME,
DO WE?

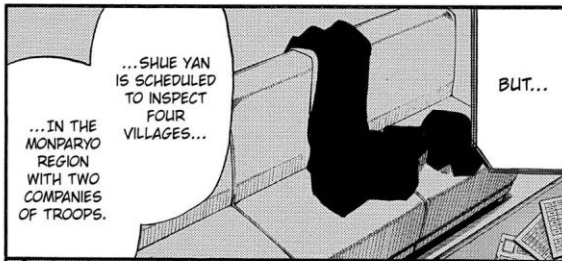
I'LL START
WITH THE
CONCLUSION...

WE ARE
EXTREMELY
DISPLEASED
WITH THE
NSA'S PLANS
IN THIS
REGION.

THEREFORE
WE'RE GOING TO
DISCLOSE ALL THE
INTELLIGENCE WE
HAVE ON THEM AND
GIVE YOU A
GENERAL OUTLINE
OF THEIR
OPERATIONS.

*LITERALLY, "WHITE PAPER FAN," A TRIAD ADVISOR.





...IN THE MONPARYO REGION WITH TWO COMPANIES OF TROOPS.

...SHUE YAN IS SCHEDULED TO INSPECT FOUR VILLAGES...

BUT...



...WHEN IS THIS GOING DOWN?



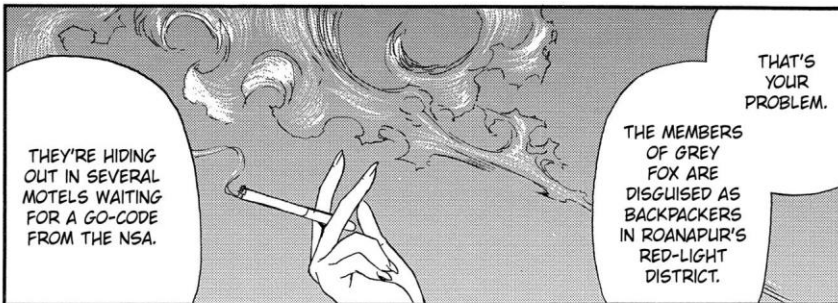
...WHAT A SHAME.

I'LL HAVE TO SMOKE OUT OUR INFORMER.

HIS LIEUTENANTS RU DONSHI AND LAO JENG WILL BE ACCOMPANYING HIM.

IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE SOME TIME LATER THIS MONTH.

YOU KNOW SHUE YAN IS CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE. THAT MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TRYING TO CAPTURE HIM.



THEY'RE HIDING OUT IN SEVERAL MOTELS WAITING FOR A GO-CODE FROM THE NSA.

THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.

THE MEMBERS OF GREY FOX ARE DISGUISED AS BACKPACKERS IN ROANAPUR'S RED-LIGHT DISTRICT.



...WHERE ARE THESE MOTELS?

YUP. IN THE JUNGLE.

THAT'S THEIR TERRITORY. YOUR PEOPLE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THEM THERE.

...IF THAT DEADLINE PASSES, THE NEXT CHANCE WE'D HAVE TO INTERCEPT THEM WOULD BE...



...AND CHARLIE AT THE RANSAP INN.

ALPHA IS STANDING BY AT THE TOKAINA HOTEL, BRAVO AT THE BLUE MOON MOTEL...

...LISTEN CAREFULLY.

THE ASSAULT TEAM IS MADE UP OF 18 MEMBERS DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS. ALPHA, BRAVO AND CHARLIE.



I'LL CONTACT YOU WHEN THIS IS OVER.

...NO, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH, MS. CIA.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ?

...IS HIDING OUT WITH HIS LIEUTENANT, CAPTAIN RAYMOND MCDUGALL AT ALPHA TEAM'S HOTEL.

BY THE WAY, THE TEAM LEADER, MAJOR SHANE J. CAXTON...



TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PLANS.

WE'RE NOT DONE YET, PAK TZE S'IN CHANG.

...

...

...DID WE EVER HAVE...

...THAT MUCH TRUST BETWEEN US?

IT'S YOUR OBLIGATION TO CARRY THAT OUT.

A WORD OF ADVICE.

AND DON'T FORGET THAT.

OUR GOAL IN THIS MATTER IS THE FAILURE OF THE NSA'S OPERATION.



IF ONE OF
UNCLE SAM'S
ASS-KISSERS
LIKE YOU...

WE'RE NOT
YOUR DOGS
OR YOUR
APPRENTICES.



...THINKS
SHE CAN
BOSS US
AROUND...



...YOU'RE
DEAD
WRONG.



HAH...

HAH
HAH
HAH.



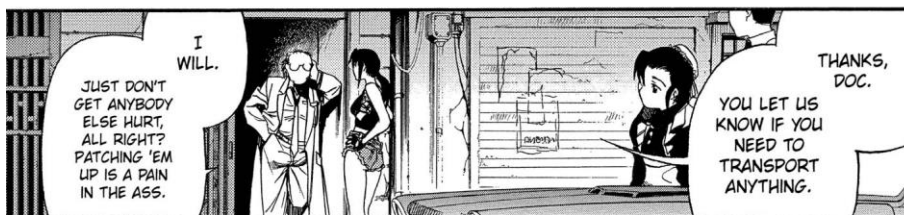
...THE ONLY
REASON...

...WE'RE
LENDING A
HAND IN THIS
LOVERS'
QUARREL
BETWEEN YOU
BUREAUCRATS
IS...

...BECAUSE
WE HAVE A
MUTUAL
INTEREST.







I
WILL.
JUST DON'T
GET ANYBODY
ELSE HURT,
ALL RIGHT?
PATCHING 'EM
UP IS A PAIN
IN THE ASS.

THANKS,
DOC.
YOU LET US
KNOW IF YOU
NEED TO
TRANSPORT
ANYTHING.



HOW
LONG'S
SHE
BEEN
USING?

BY THE
WAY--
HEY,
KIDDO?



BINGO.
LEROY
WAS
HERE FOR
SURE.

HE'S
DEFINITELY
BEEN
IN TOUCH
WITH FOUR
EYES.



WHAT?!

...WELL...
I KNEW SHE
WAS TAKING
MEDICATION EVEN
WHEN SHE WAS
WORKING AT THE
MANSION, BUT--



BUT...
I HAD NO IDEA
SHE WOULD BE
TAKING SUCH
LARGE
DOSES...

...FORGIVE
ME.
THE HEAD
MATRON HAD ME
KEEP QUIET
ABOUT IT SINCE
YOU WOULD
WORRY, YOUNG
MASTER.



BUT...

THAT'S THE
BEST WAY TO
COOL OFF
WHEN YOUR
BLOOD'S
BOILING.



MAYBE
SHE
ALREADY
IS.

SHE'S JUST
A STEP
AWAY FROM
DABBING IN
SPEED...

NO.



THAT'LL POP THE CAPS ON HER PARANOIA AND OBSESSION.

IF SHE STARTS USING HABITUALLY...
YOU SAW IT... SHE'LL TURN INTO A JEDI KNIGHT JUST LIKE TOH CHI.

TCH



WHY...

...HAVEN'T WE CAUGHT UP TO HER YET?!

W...

WHY...?!



WE DON'T HAVE TIME!



...FOR MUCH LONGER!

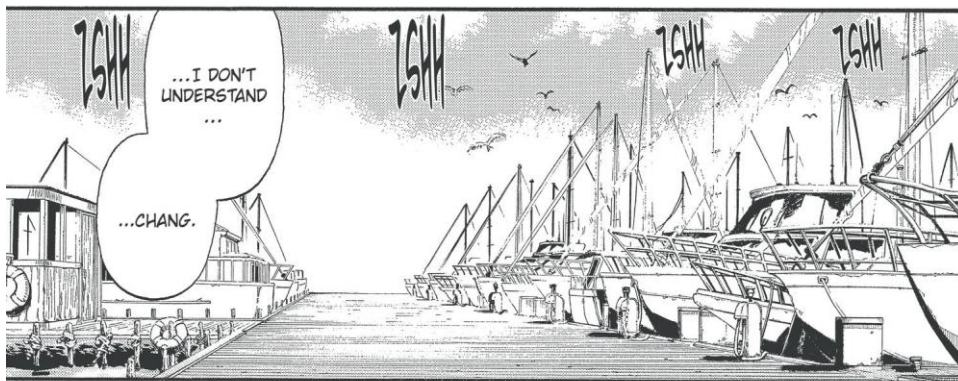
SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL HERSELF...

YOUNG MASTER!

YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE CALM DOWN-









FW

OUR
INVOLVEMENT
...

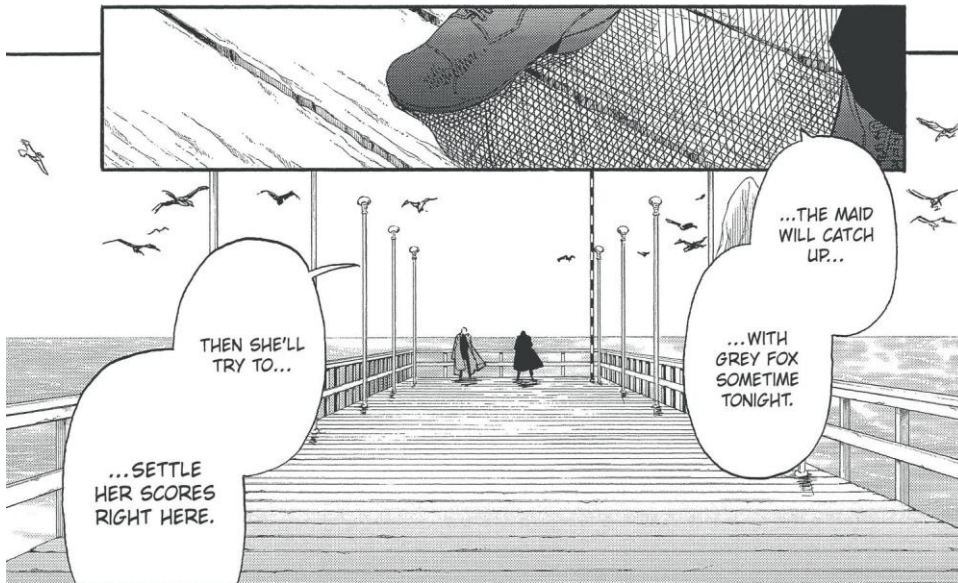
...SHOULDN'T
BE SOMETHING
YOU WISH FOR.

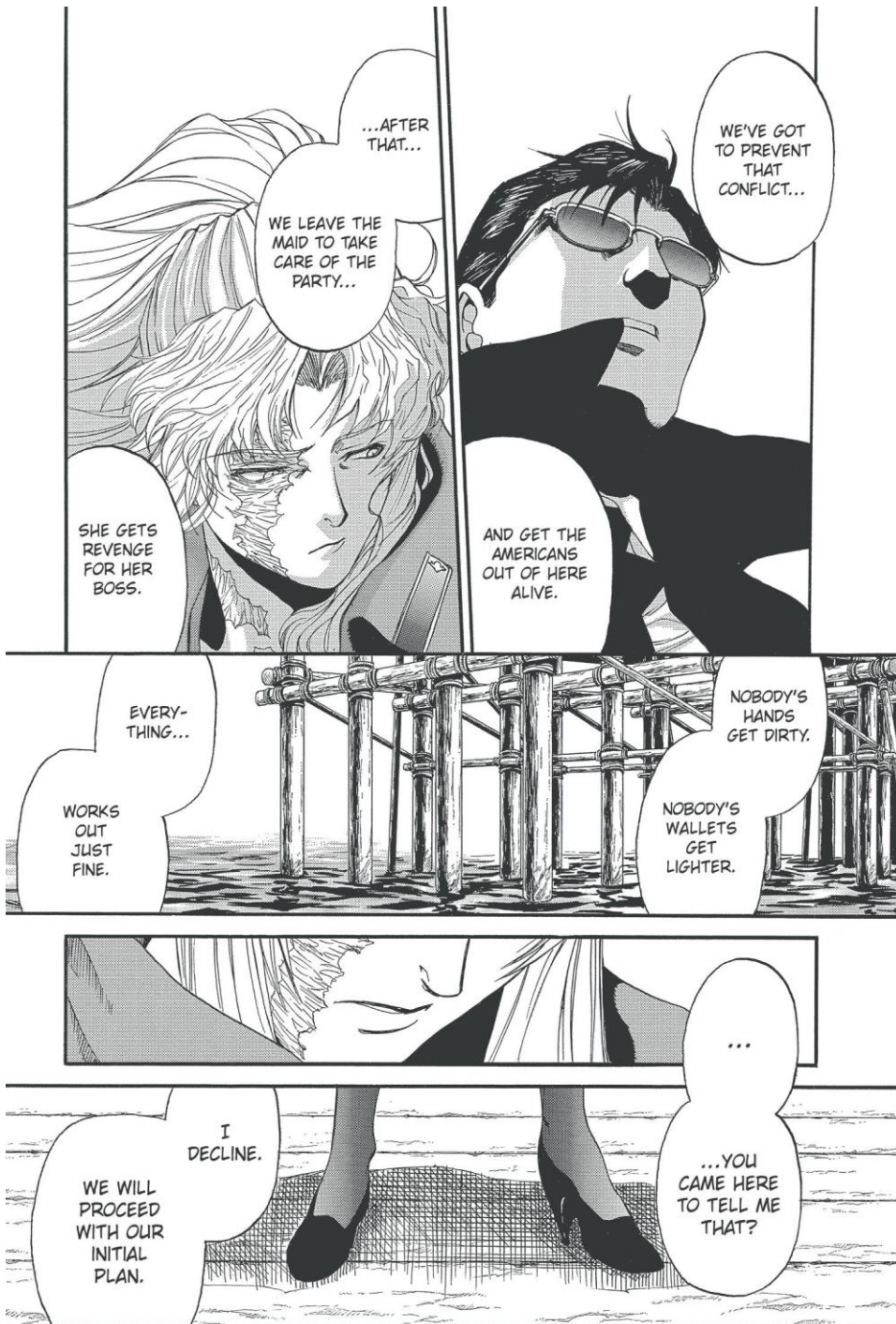
OO

SO WHY DID
YOU COME TO
TELL ME
THIS?

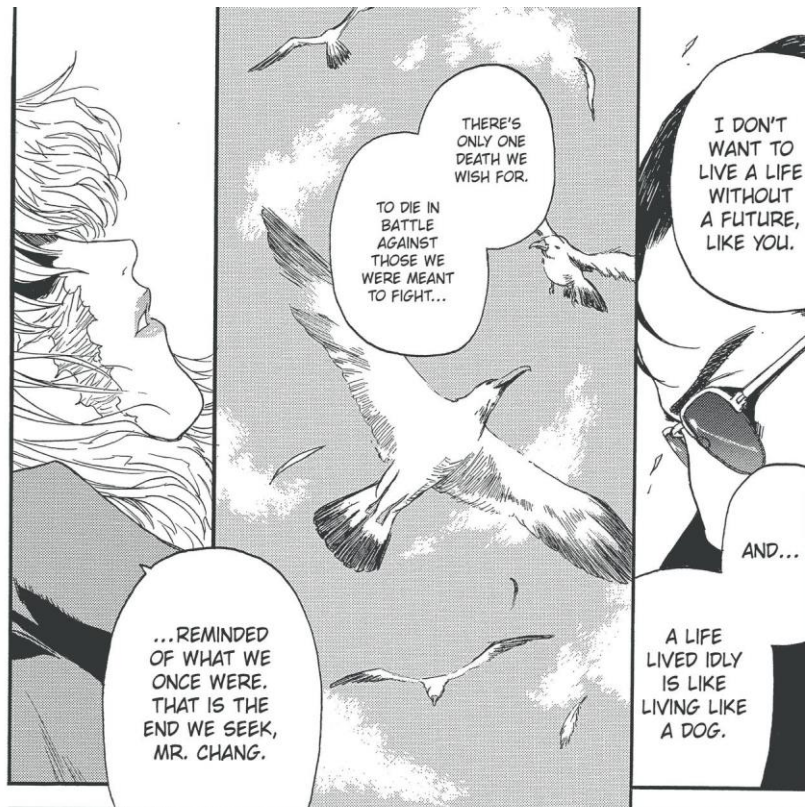
WHAT'S
YOUR
REAL
MOTIVE?

OO









THERE'S
ONLY ONE
DEATH WE
WISH FOR.

TO DIE IN
BATTLE
AGAINST
THOSE WE
WERE MEANT
TO FIGHT...

I DON'T
WANT TO
LIVE A LIFE
WITHOUT
A FUTURE,
LIKE YOU.

AND...

A LIFE
LIVED IDLY
IS LIKE
LIVING LIKE
A DOG.

...REMINDED
OF WHAT WE
ONCE WERE.
THAT IS THE
END WE SEEK,
MR. CHANG.



...STUPID.

...



IT'S
STUPID.

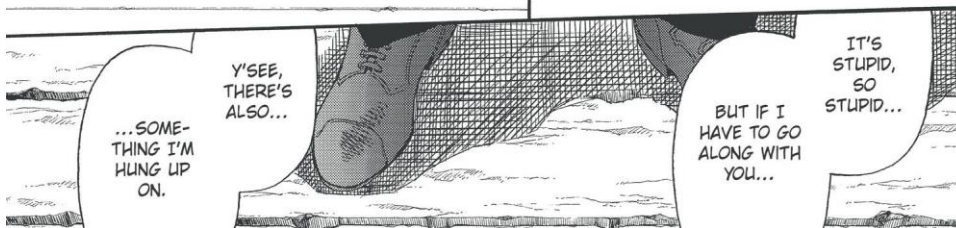


...IT ALSO
MEANS YOU
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
BESIDES THAT.

WHEN
YOU START
DWELLING
ON IT...

IT'S SOMETHING
SO WHIMSICAL IT
CAN CHANGE
WHEN THE WIND
BLOWS.

IF YOU ASK
ME, LIVING
BY A CODE
IS A STUPID
NOTION.





...SAME
HERE.

I TOOK
THREE .22 LR
ROUNDS.

IT WAS A
BEAUTIFUL
SILVER
MOONLIT
NIGHT.

THE NUMBER
THAT NIGHT
WAS...

"IT'S A BLUE
WORLD."

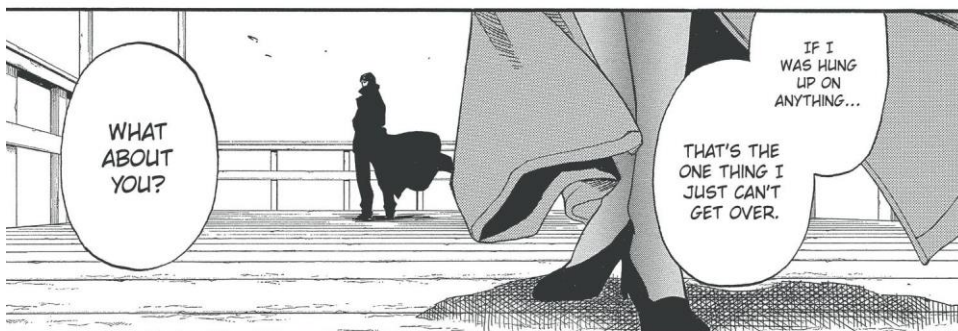


IT WAS
THE PERFECT
EVENING
BANQUET FOR
A BULLET
BALLET.

ONE OF
US WAS
SUPPOSED TO
KISS THE DIRT
AND SAY
GOODBYE TO
THIS WORLD
THAT NIGHT.

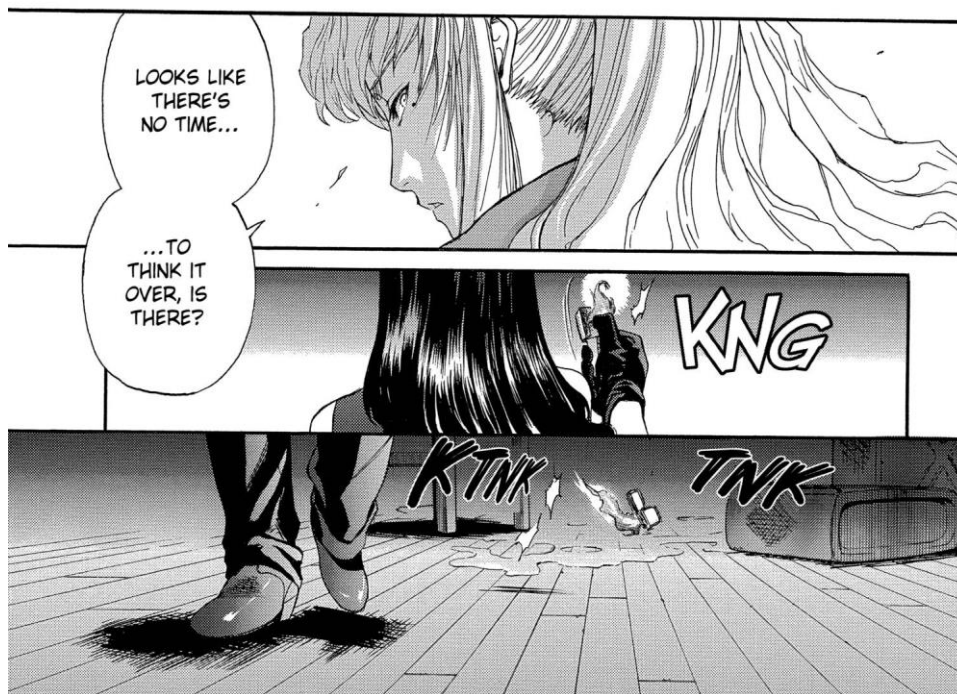
BUT...

WE'RE BOTH
STILL HERE.





Chapter 57: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XIV

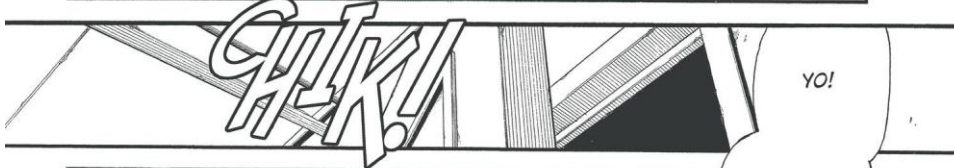












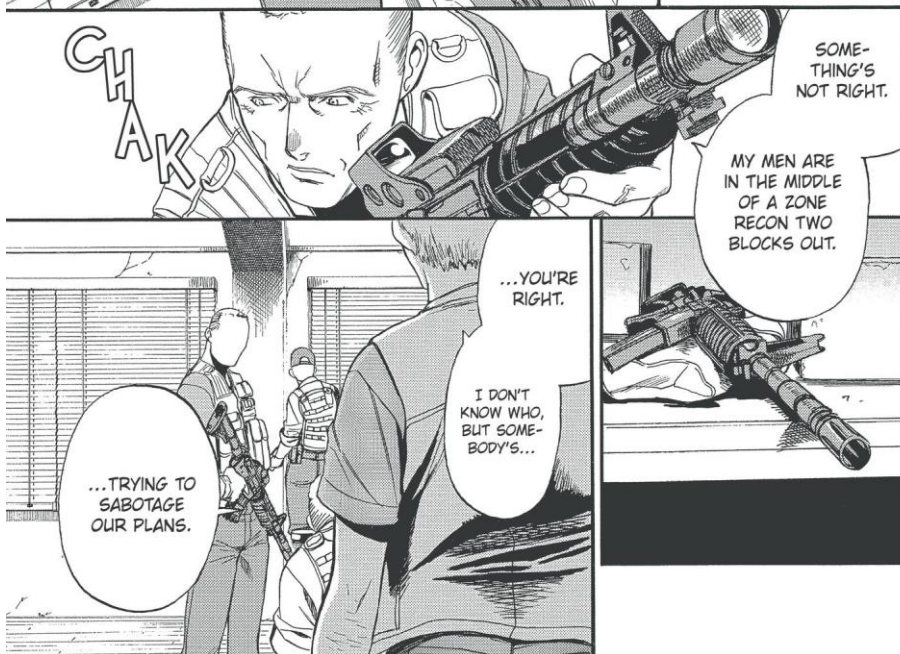
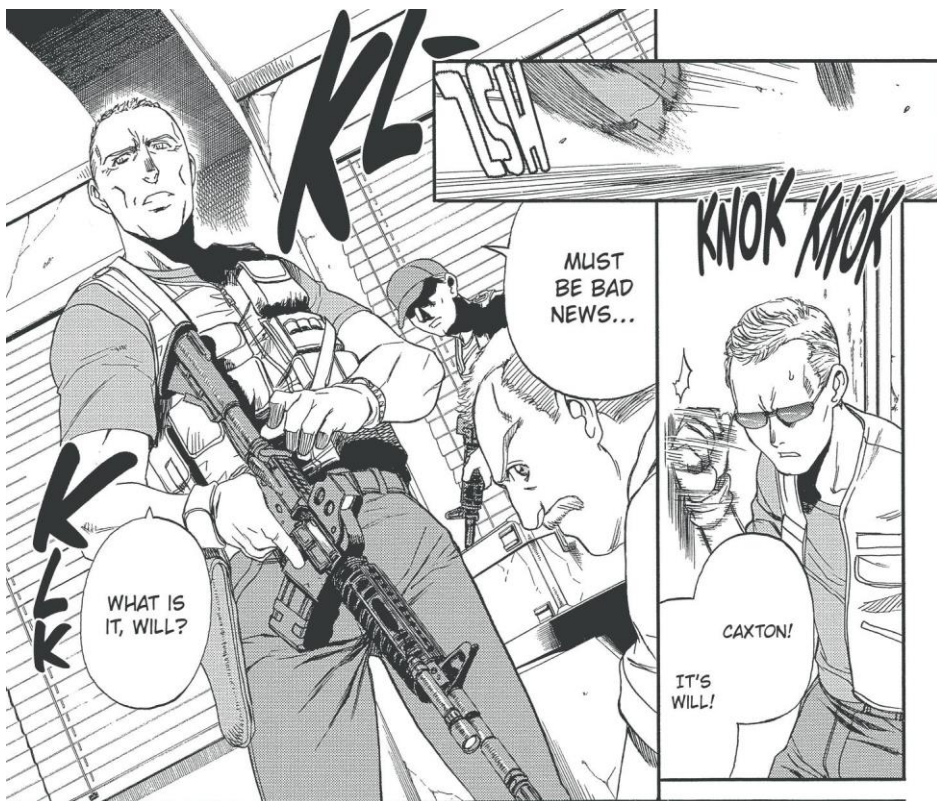




...BAILED
BEFORE SHE
PAID ME HALF
OF WHAT SHE
PROMISED!!

WHY?!
BECAUSE OF
THAT CRAZY
BITCH! THAT'S
WHY!!

LISTEN, REVY,
THAT BITCH...









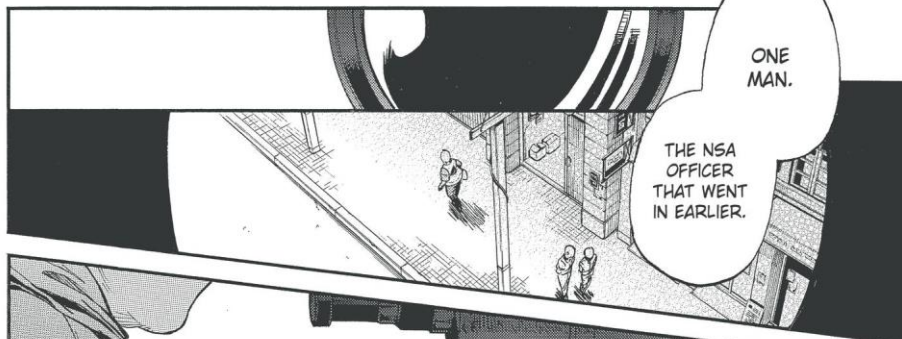
WILL.



YOU BETTER
GET OUTTA
HERE BEFORE
THE BULLETS
START FLYING.

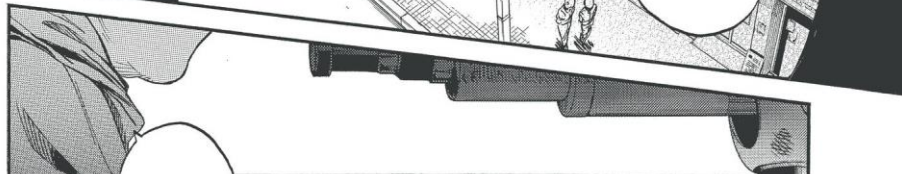
IT'LL
PROBABLY
...

...BEGIN
SOON.



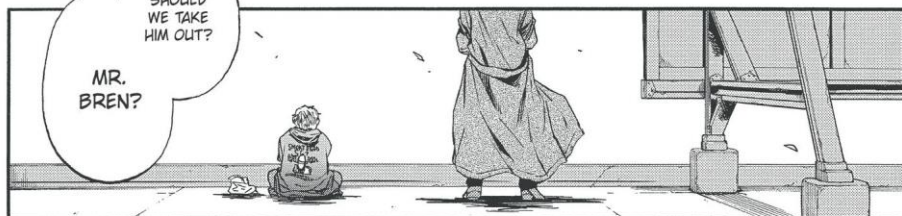
ONE
MAN.

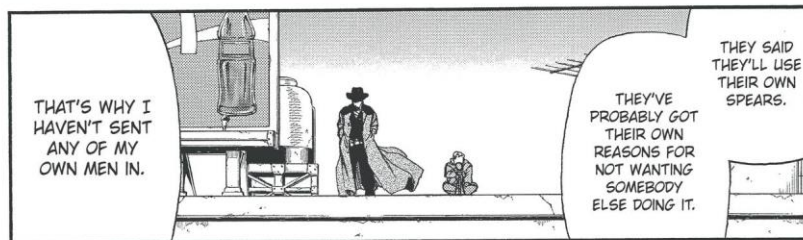
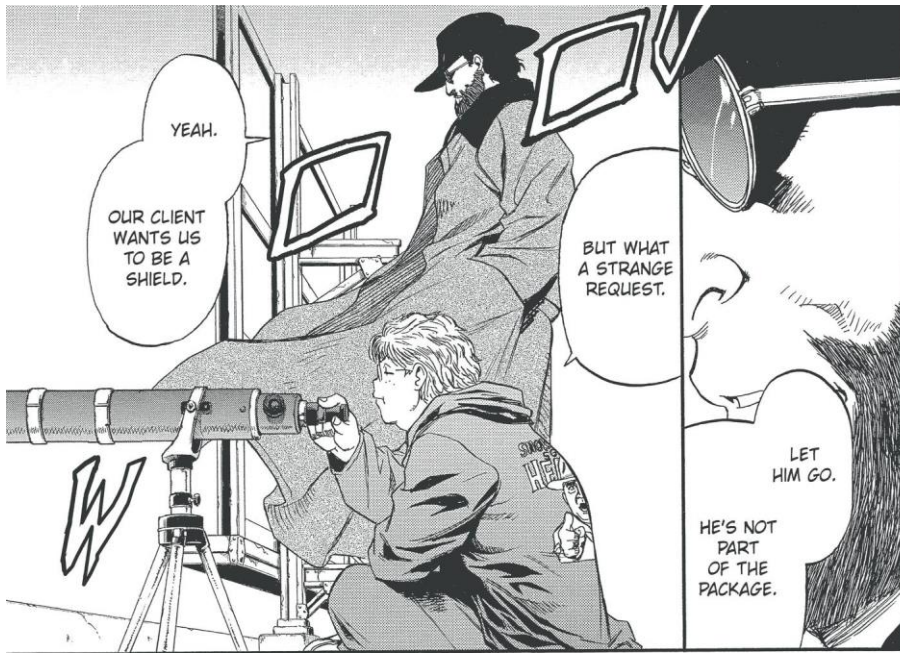
THE NSA
OFFICER
THAT WENT
IN EARLIER.

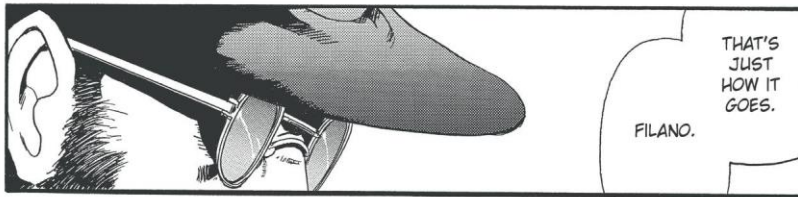


SHOULD
WE TAKE
HIM OUT?

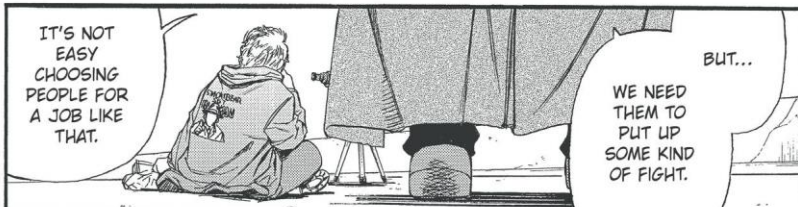
MR.
BREN?







THAT'S
JUST
HOW IT
GOES.
FILANO.



IT'S NOT
EASY
CHOOSING
PEOPLE FOR
A JOB LIKE
THAT.

BUT...
WE NEED
THEM TO
PUT UP
SOME KIND
OF FIGHT.



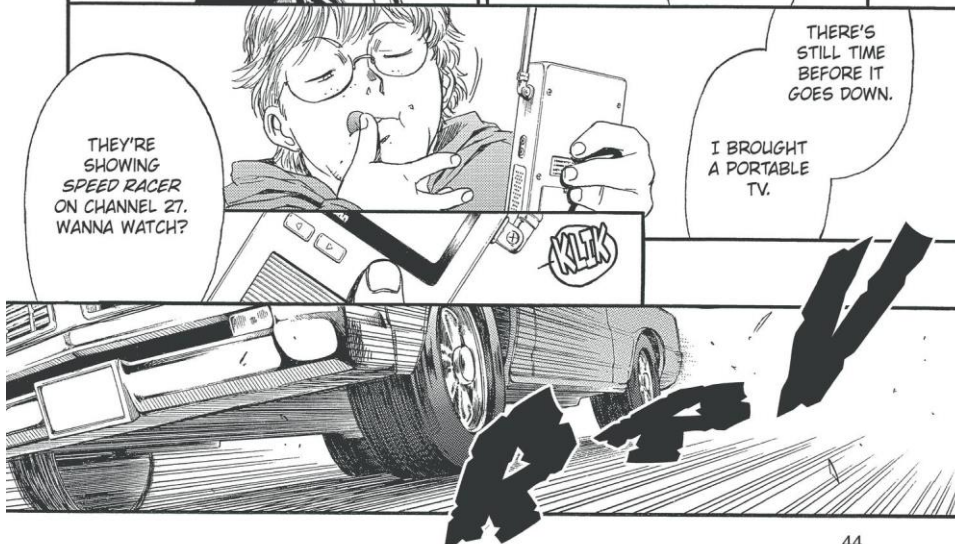
AN
UNDENIABLE
ARGUMENT.
BEAUTIFUL.

AND THAT'S
WHY THEY'LL
END UP DYING
IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS.

THEY'LL
REALIZE THAT
TOO LATE.

THAT'S WHY WE'VE
THOROUGHLY
PLANNED OUT
EVERYTHING
LEADING UP TO
THEM GOING IN.
IT'S JUST THAT...

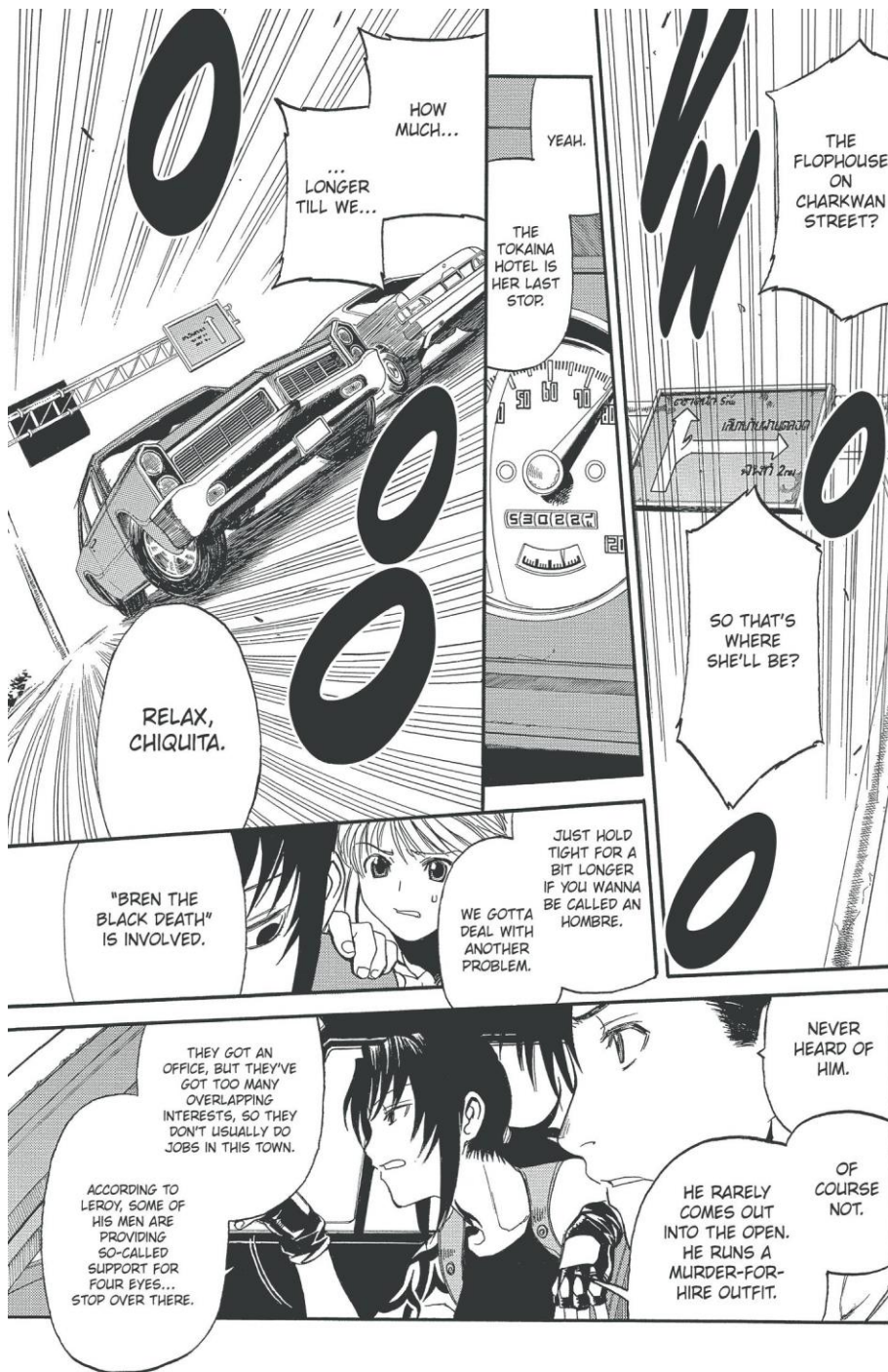
...WE DIDN'T
CONSIDER
THEM
GETTING
OUT.



THEY'RE
SHOWING
SPEED RACER
ON CHANNEL 27.
WANNA WATCH?

I BROUGHT
A PORTABLE
TV.

THERE'S
STILL TIME
BEFORE IT
GOES DOWN.



HOW MUCH...
... LONGER TILL WE...

YEAH.

THE TOKAINA HOTEL IS HER LAST STOP.

THE FLOPHOUSE ON CHARKWAN STREET?

RELAX, CHIQUITA.

SO THAT'S WHERE SHE'LL BE?

"BREN THE BLACK DEATH" IS INVOLVED.

WE GOTTA DEAL WITH ANOTHER PROBLEM.

JUST HOLD TIGHT FOR A BIT LONGER IF YOU WANNA BE CALLED AN HOMBRE.

THEY GOT AN OFFICE, BUT THEY'VE GOT TOO MANY OVERLAPPING INTERESTS, SO THEY DON'T USUALLY DO JOBS IN THIS TOWN.

ACCORDING TO LEROY, SOME OF HIS MEN ARE PROVIDING SO-CALLED SUPPORT FOR FOUR EYES... STOP OVER THERE.

NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

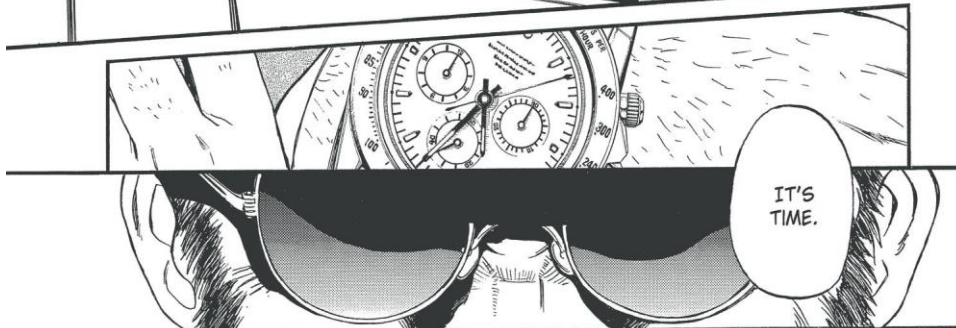
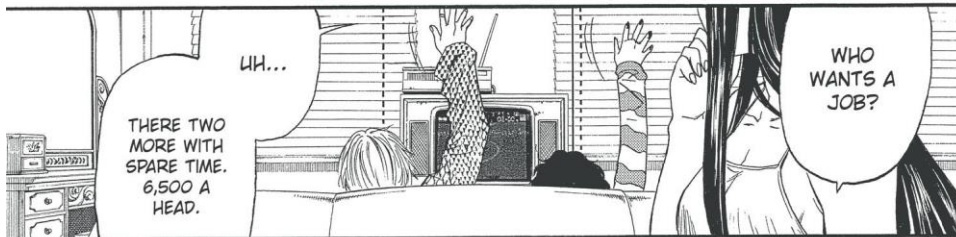
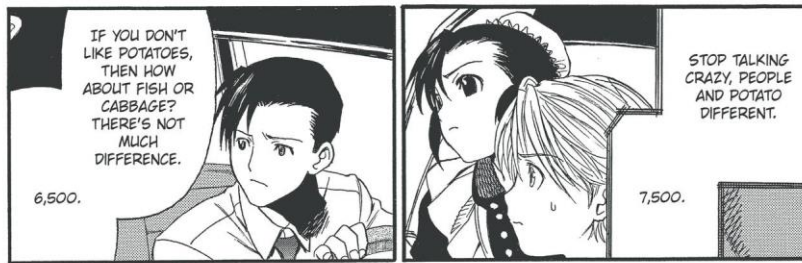
OF COURSE NOT.

HE RARELY COMES OUT INTO THE OPEN. HE RUNS A MURDER-FOR-HIRE OUTFIT.

















SINS CAN
ONLY BE
ATONED
FOR WITH
BLOOD!

THERE IS NO
OTHER WAY!
THAT'S
WHY...

I'LL MAKE
THEM
REGRET
THEY WERE
EVER BORN!

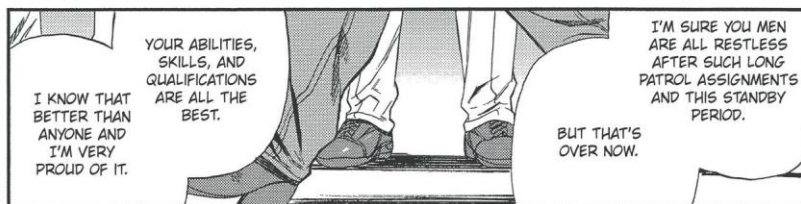
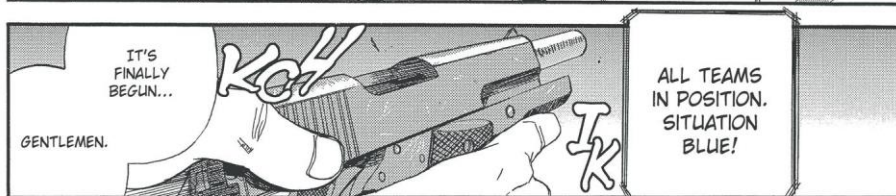
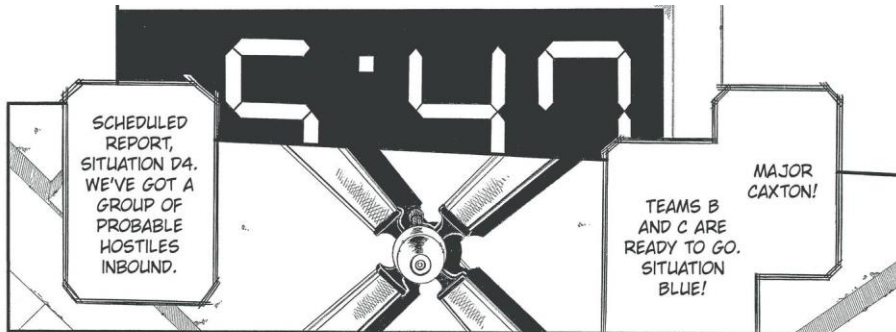
I'LL KILL
AND KILL
AND KILL!

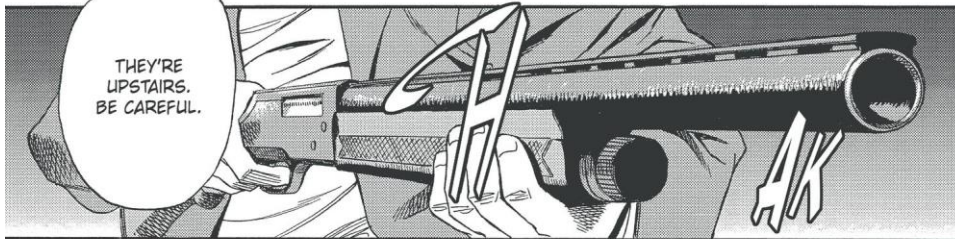
YET
YOU—

NO ONE
REQUIRES
REVENGE
FROM YOU.

THINK
BACK.

YOUR DEAD
MASTER FEARED
YOU WOULD BE
TRAPPED IN A
PURGATORY OF
BLOODSHED AS
MUCH AS HE
WORRIED ABOUT
HIS CHILD'S
SAFETY.





Chapter 58: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XV

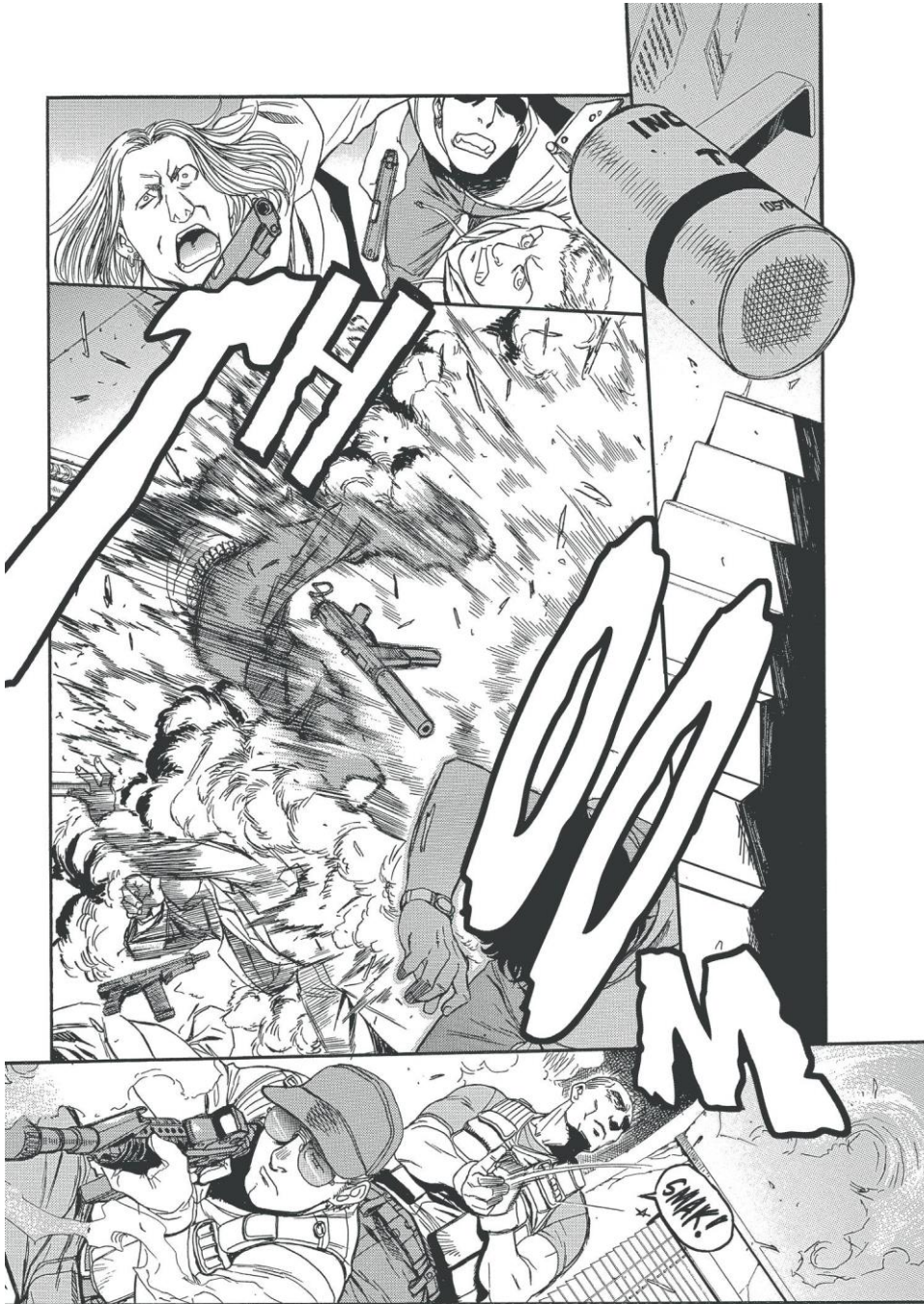














MR.
BREN!

WELL WELL,
THEY'VE
TURNED THE
SITUATION
AROUND!

THIS WAS
UNEXPECTED,
MR. BREN.

THEY'RE...





ROGER
THAT.
PULLING
OUT!



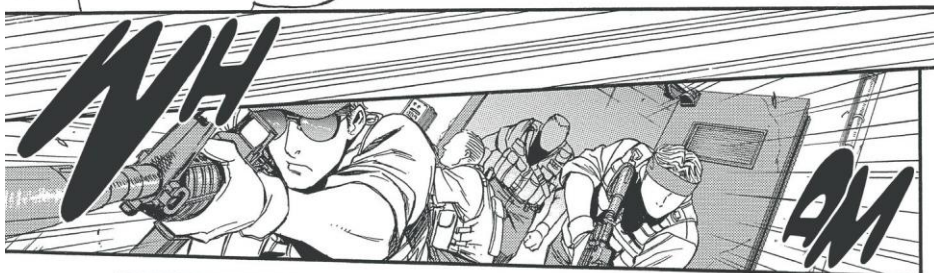
SECOND
GROUP OF
ATTACKERS
CLEARED.

GOOD
JOB.

SEAL THE
CORRIDOR
AND LINK
UP IN
THIRTY
SECONDS.





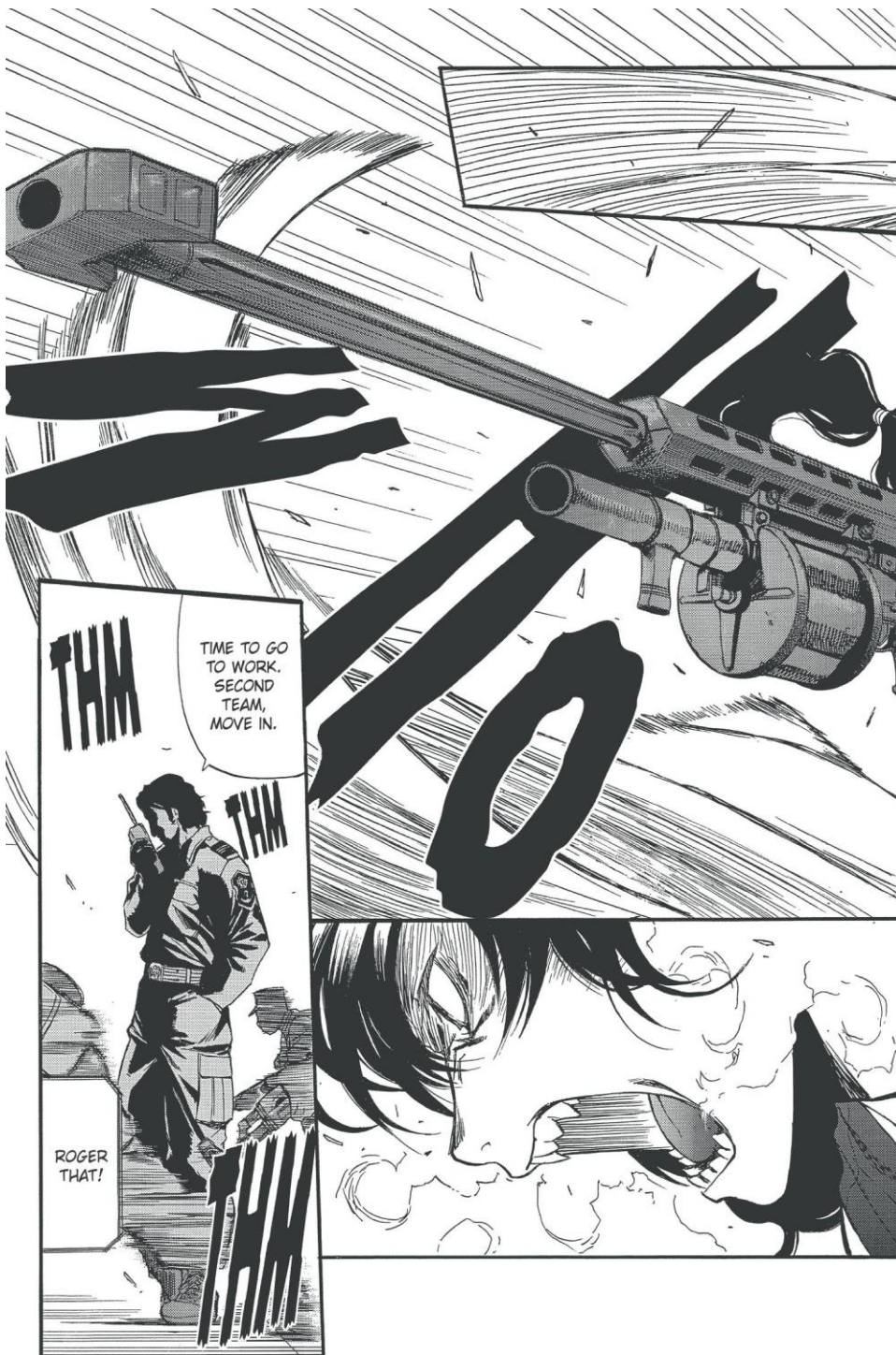




!

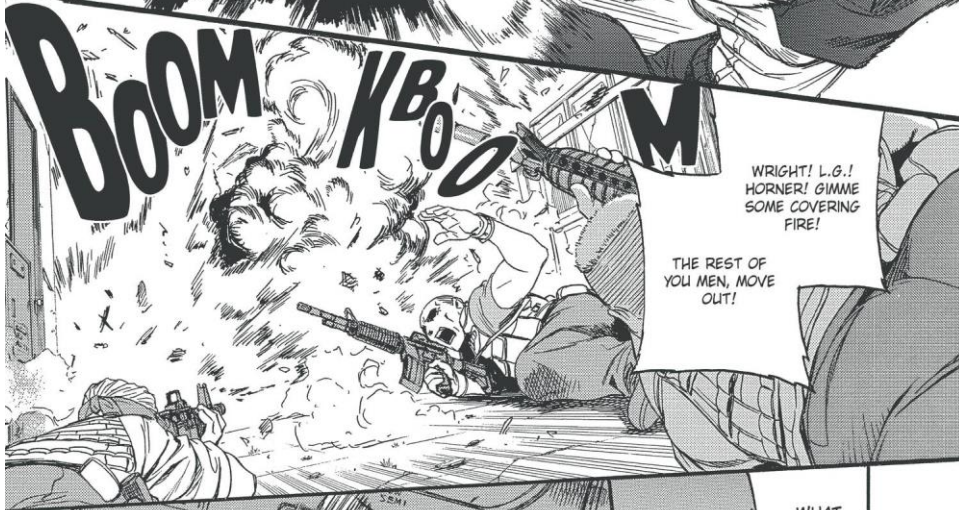
IT'S
HER!!

I HAVE
VISUAL
CONTACT!
SHE'S ON THE
ROOF ACROSS
THE STREET!!



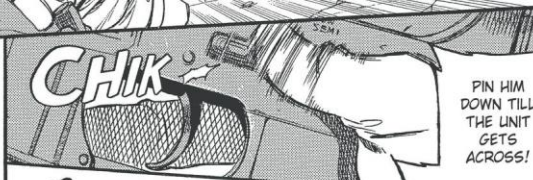






WRIGHT! L.G.!
HORNER! GIMME
SOME COVERING
FIRE!

THE REST OF
YOU MEN, MOVE
OUT!



PIN HIM
DOWN TILL
THE UNIT
GETS
ACROSS!



NOW GO!
GO! GO!



WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
MAJOR
?!





...
NOTHING
CHANGES IF
WE WALK
AWAY.

IF
THEY'RE
FIGHT-
ING...

THAT MEANS
THE HEAD
MATRON IS
STILL ALIVE!

THIS IS
WAR
ZONE.

WHEN THIS
OVER, YOU
PAY EXTRA.

IT'LL
ONLY GET
WORSE.

THIS IS
THE
DIVIDE...

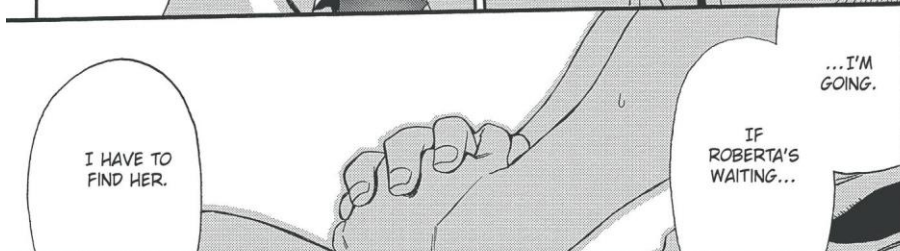
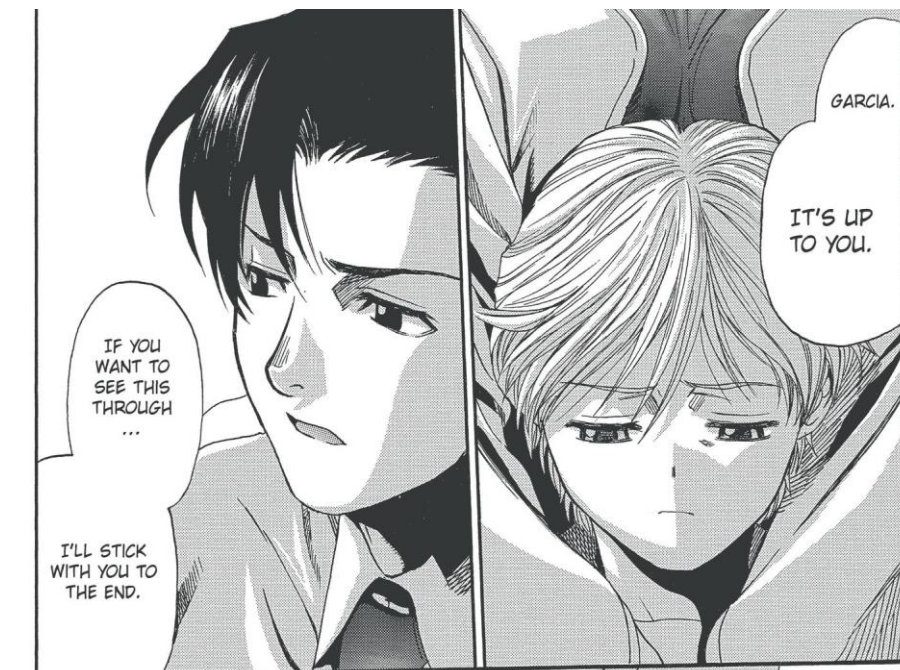
...DUTCH KEPT
TELLING ME
ABOUT...

THIS IS
WHERE YOU
MAKE YOUR
CHOICE.

SHIT!

WE'RE LATE!
THE SHOW'S
ALREADY
STARTED!

THERE'S A
FULL-ON
CLASSIC
FIREFIGHT
UP THERE!
NOW WHAT?







Chapter 59: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XVI





MAKE ME
EVEN
HAPPIER.

HAH!

SO SHE
WORTHY
OPPONENT.



THE ONLY
GUYS YOU'RE
ALLOWED TO
HACK AT ARE
THE FLIES
BUZZING
AROUND.

MAKE NO
MISTAKE,
SHENHUA.

SHE'S OUR
TARGET, BUT
CUTTING HER
HEAD OFF IS
OUT OF THE
QUESTION.

AND...



YOU! GOTH
CHICK!

YOU PULL SOME
SHIT LIKE YOU DID
THE LAST TIME
AND I'LL SHOVE
A JALAPEÑO UP
YOUR ASS, YOU
UNDERSTAND ME?

I HAD NO
IDEA YOU
WERE
ADOLPH'S
CLEANER.

LEMME
TELL YOU
SOMETHING.



NOT ONLY
DOES SHE
HAVE A FEW
SCREWS
LOOSE...

SHE'S SO
PISSED SHE'S
HOTTER THAN
A BOILED
SHRIMP.

AND SHE'S
THE ONE WHO
ALWAYS GOT
STRAIGHT A'S
IN KILLING
CLASS!

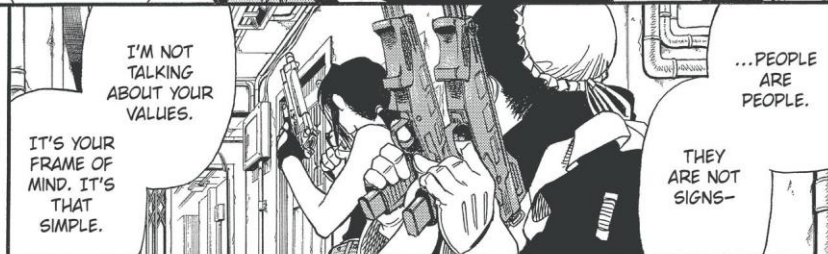
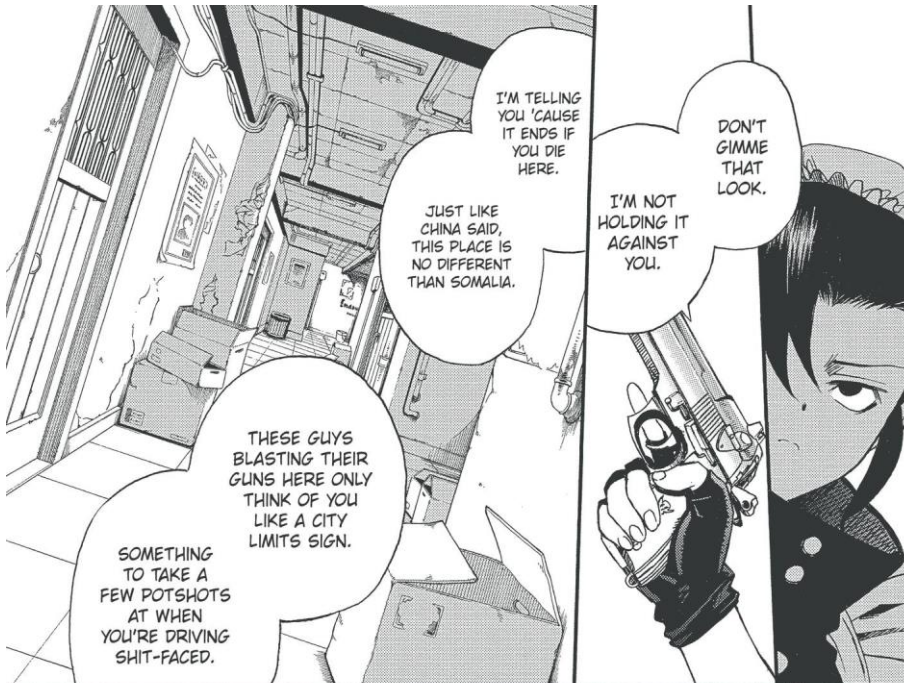




*ORP: OBJECTIVE RALLY POINT











FWSH

YOUR
WEAPONS'RE
NO GOOD
HERE.

I'LL TAKE
THE FRONT,
SO TAKE
CARE OF
THE REAR.
READY!

THEIR
POSITION?

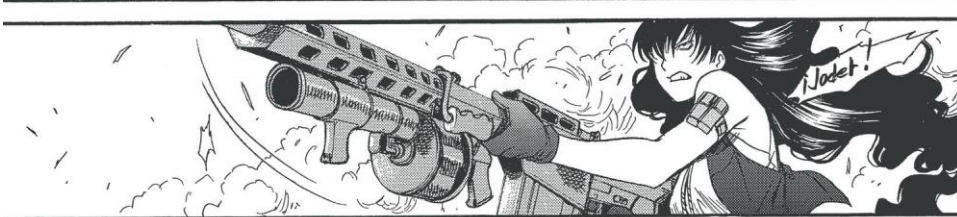
HALLWAY
NARROW,
A LITTLE
TROUBLE.

ONE IN
FRONT,
TWO IN
BACK.













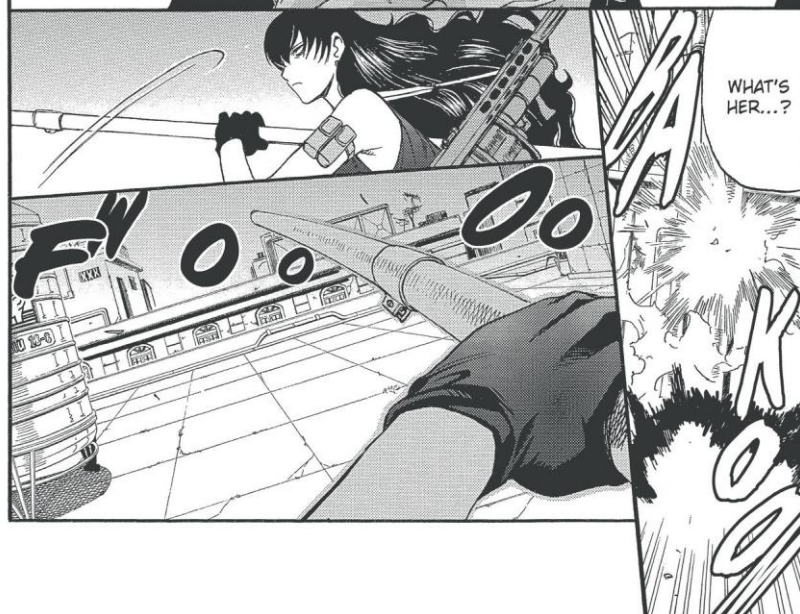


D1, DRIVE
HER TO THE
SNIPING POINT.
WHAT'S HER
CURRENT
LOCATION?

D3, TAKE
THE TEAM
AND SUPPORT
THEM.

COVER'S
NO GOOD!

WE'VE
LOST SIX
MEN!



WHAT'S
HER...?











**Chapter 60:
El Baile de la Muerte -
Part XVII**





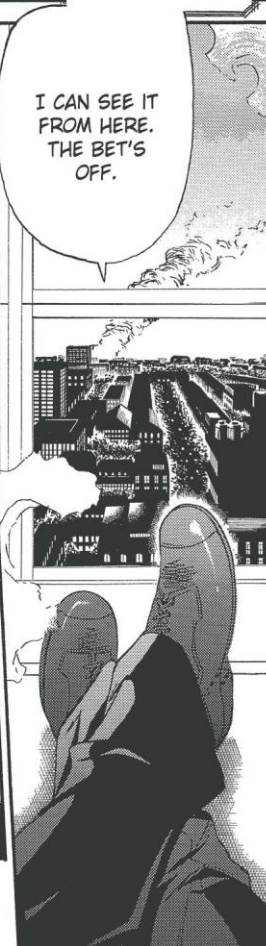
LOOKS LIKE
YOU GUYS
WERE TOO
LATE, ROCK.



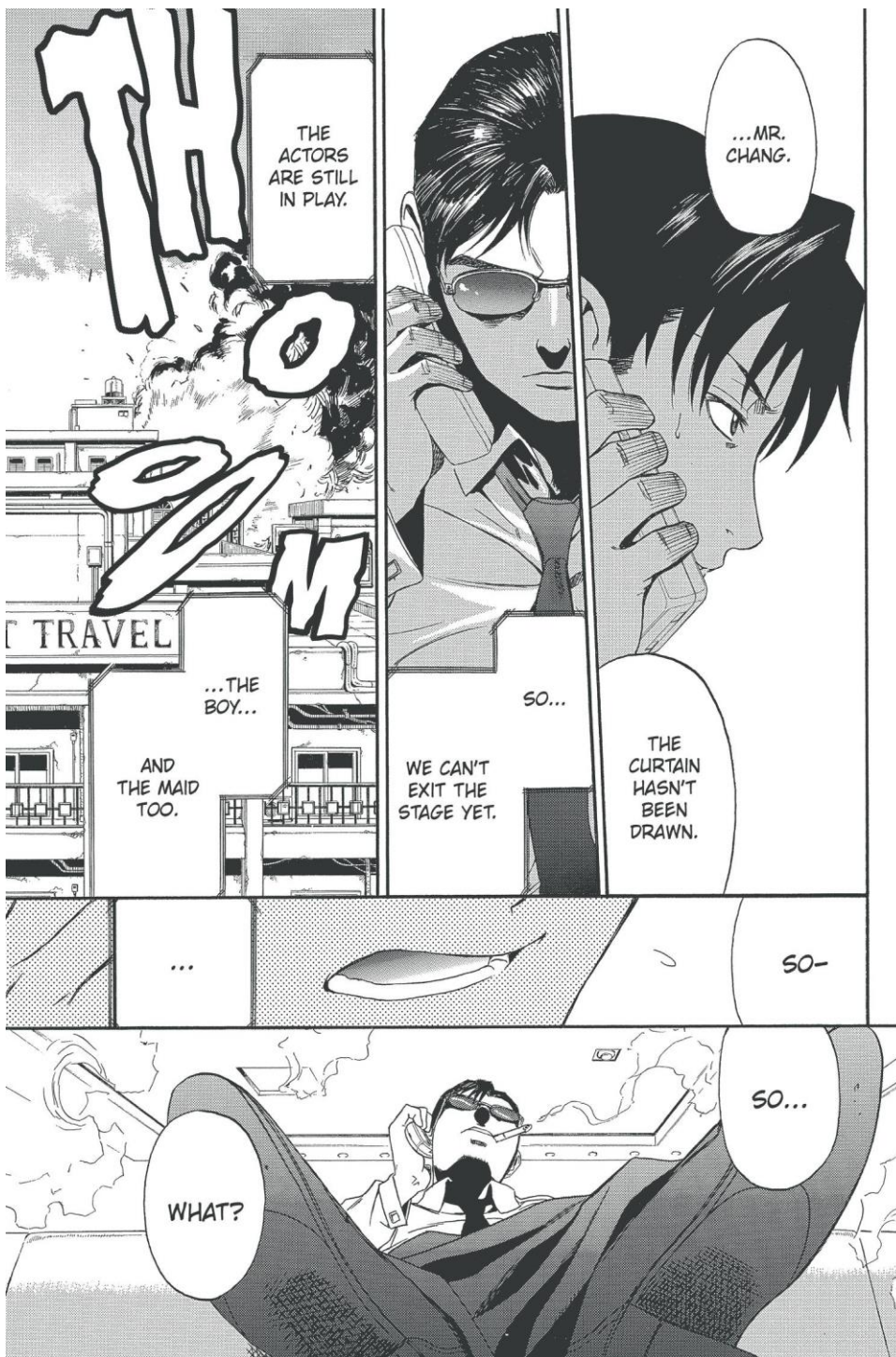
WE'LL
HANDLE IT
FROM HERE.
I'M SORRY,
BUT...

IT'S TIME
FOR YOU
TO CLOSE
UP SHOP.
DUTCH IS
PROBABLY
GETTING
ANGRY BY
NOW.

I'LL LET YOU
KNOW HOW IT
ENDS. GOOD
WORK.

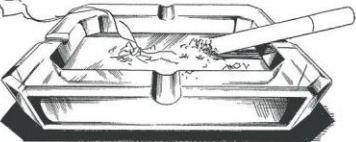


I CAN SEE IT
FROM HERE.
THE BET'S
OFF.





HYPOCRISY.



...ROCK.
DO YOU KNOW
WHAT I HATE
MOST IN THIS
WORLD?

GN

I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND THIS, ROCK.

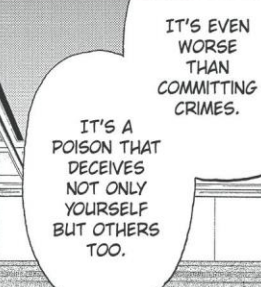
IT STILL DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT IT'S STILL A PIECE OF SHIT.

IT MAY SMELL LIKE A ROSE, BUT...



IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN COMMITTING CRIMES.

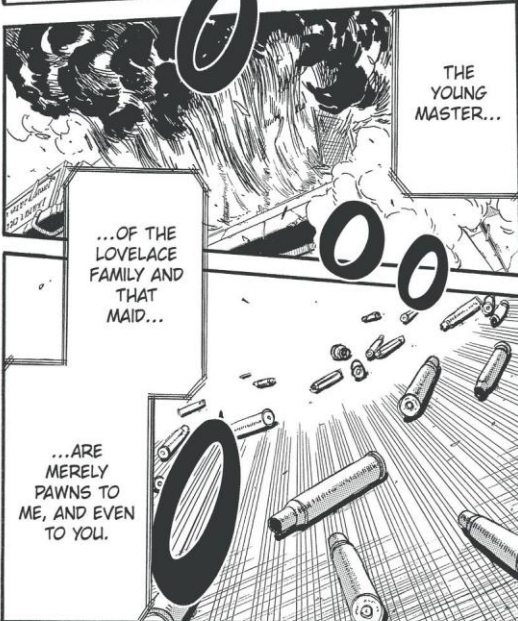
IT'S A POISON THAT DECEIVES NOT ONLY YOURSELF BUT OTHERS TOO.



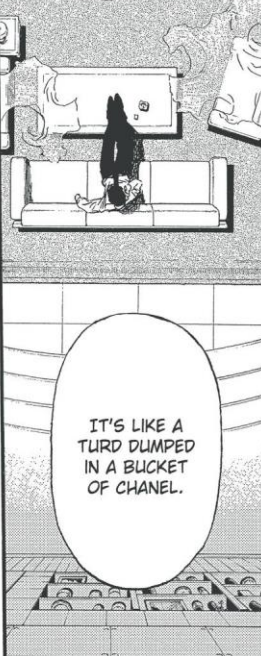
THE YOUNG MASTER...

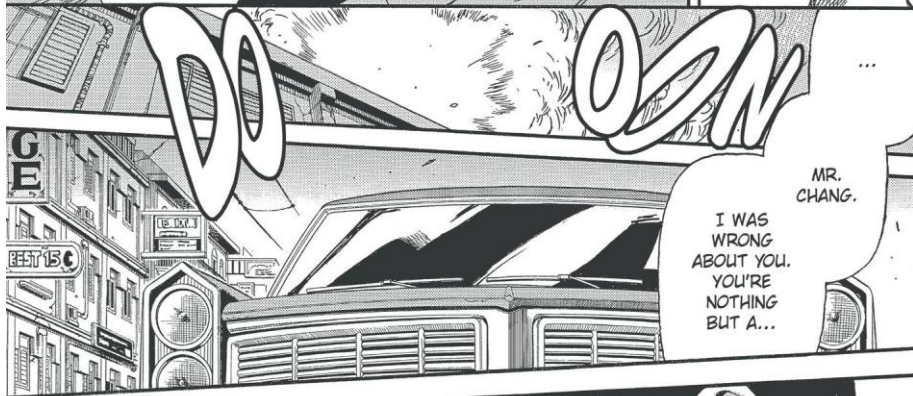
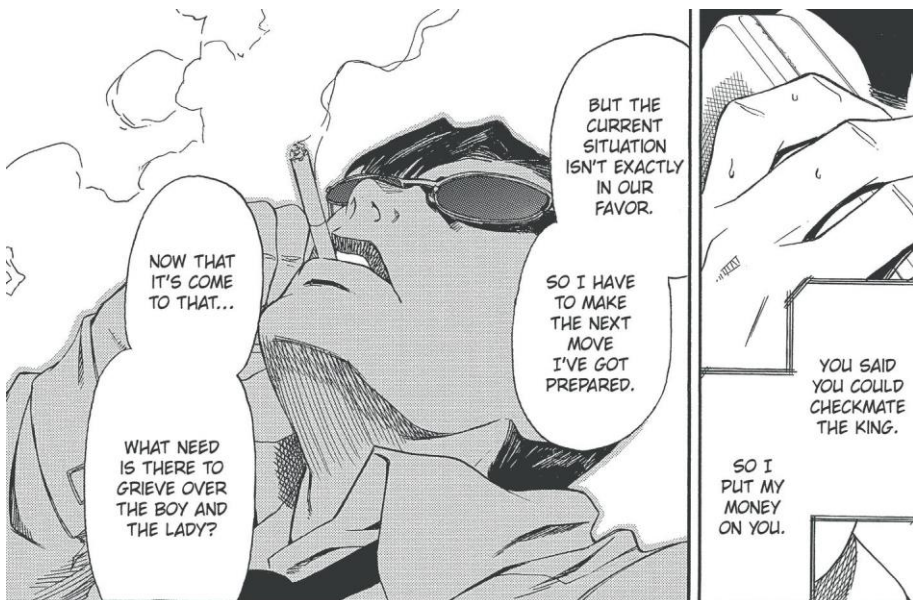
...OF THE LOVELACE FAMILY AND THAT MAID...

...ARE MERELY PAWNS TO ME, AND EVEN TO YOU.

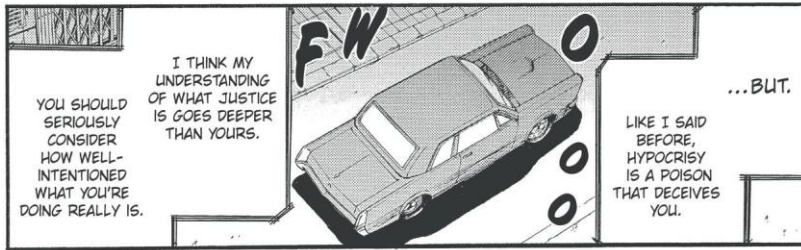


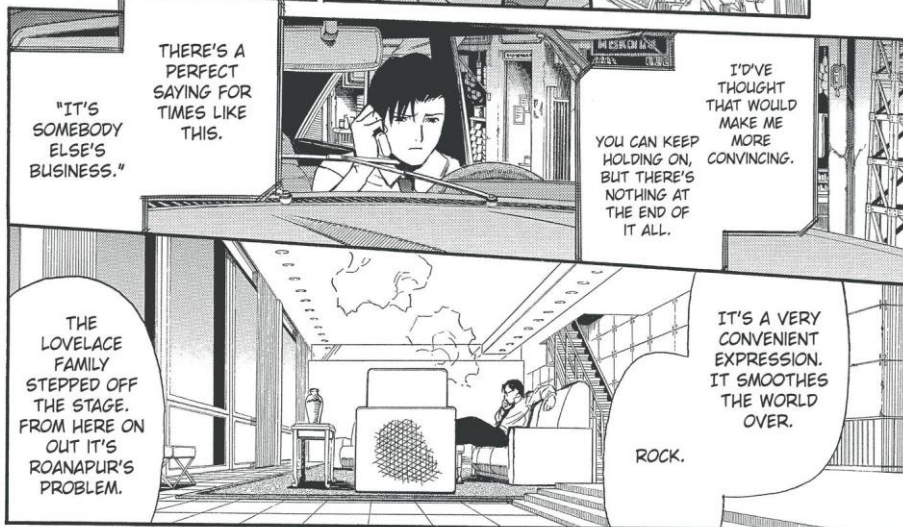
IT'S LIKE A TURD DUMPED IN A BUCKET OF CHANEL.













IT'S UP TO
THEM TO
DECIDE WHEN
THEY WANT
OUT.

THEY'RE
STILL
ALIVE.

...I WON'T
LET YOU
END THIS.

MR.
CHANG.



I ACT WITH
THE TOWN'S
SURVIVAL AS
A PRIORITY.

IT'S UP
TO ME,
ROCK.

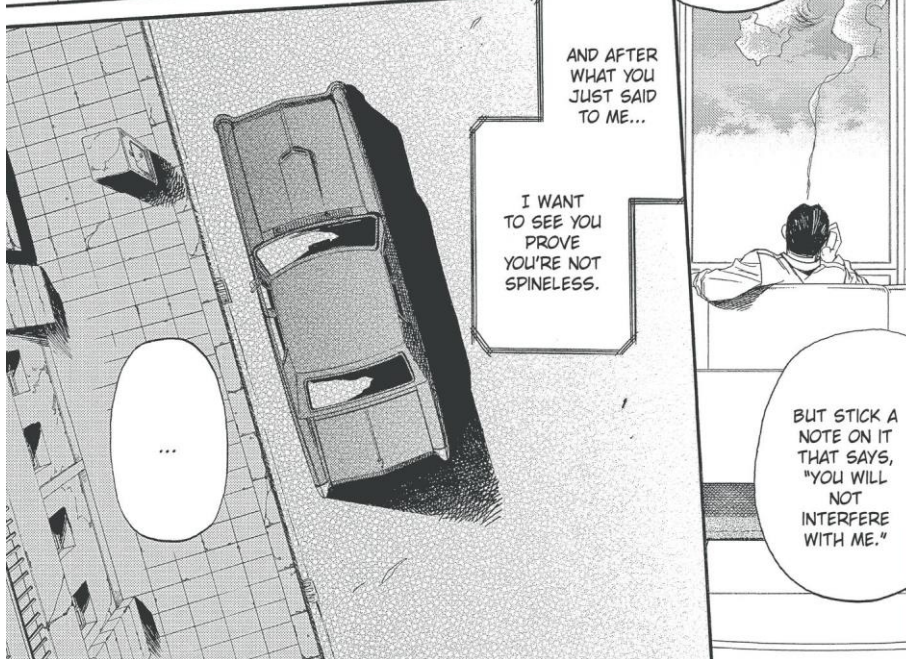


ALTHOUGH
...

I DON'T THINK
YOU CAN TURN
THIS DICE
GAME AROUND.

IF YOU
INSIST ON
CONTINUING
THIS GAME,
DO AS YOU
PLEASE.

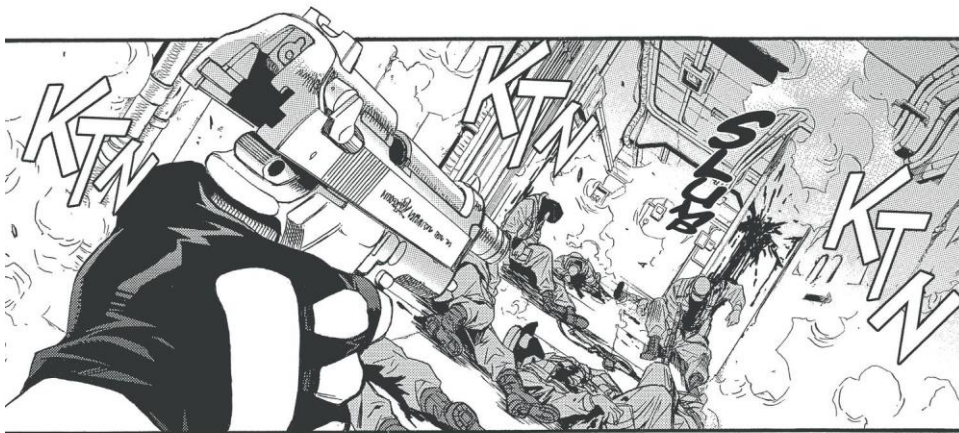
BUT...



AND AFTER
WHAT YOU
JUST SAID
TO ME...

I WANT
TO SEE YOU
PROVE
YOU'RE NOT
SPINELESS.

BUT STICK A
NOTE ON IT
THAT SAYS,
"YOU WILL
NOT
INTERFERE
WITH ME."







HEY,
BEANER!

HEY!

BE
CAREFUL!
HE'S
DYING!

TU HABLA... UH...
RESPONDE PREGUNTA.
¿COMPRENDES?
(SPEAK... UH... ANSWER
QUESTION. UNDERSTAND?)

SHAKE



...
...HE'S
STILL
ALIVE.



...
I CAN
SEE
THAT.

THIS IS
GOING
NOWHERE.
TRANSLATE.

THAT
ONE?
GOOD
JOB.



TELL HIM
WE'LL TAKE
HIM TO A
DOCTOR IF
HE TALKS.

I KNOW
YOU'RE
AFTER
ROBER...
ROSARITA.

WHERE
IS SHE?

SÓLO QUEREMOS SABER
ADONDE FUE ROSARITA.
CALL WE WANT TO KNOW
IS WHERE ROSARITA
WENT.)

¡SI NOS DICES TE LLEVAMOS A UN
HOSPITAL! ...O A UN LUGAR DONDE TE
ENCUENTREN TUS AMIGOS!
(IF YOU TELL US, WE'LL TAKE YOU TO
THE HOSPITAL...OR SOMEWHERE WHERE
YOUR FRIENDS WILL FIND YOU!)

NO TE HAREMOS DAÑO.
SOLO DINOS DONDE
ESTA ROSARITA.
(WE WON'T HURT YOU.
WHERE IS ROSARITA?)







WHAT'RE
YOU DOING,
SHORTY?

LET'S CUT
OUT THE
BACK-

FABIOLA!

I WONDER
WHY THAT
IS?

YOU GOT
THE BUSINESS
END OF THAT
WEAPON
POINTED
AT ME.

HEY...

HEY.



SO WHY
THE HELL
DID YOU
SHOOT
HIM?!

THE
FIGHT
WAS
OVER.

WHAT WAS
THAT FOR?



BUT YOU
SHOT HIM.

IF WE TOOK
HIM TO THE
HOSPITAL, IT
WAS 60/40
HE WOULD'VE
DIED.

THAT WASN'T
SELF-DEFENSE.
WHAT YOU
DID WAS
ANILACIÓN*!

IF YOU'RE
GONNA
FIGHT THEM,
YOU GOTTA
FINISH 'EM.

IT
IS.

BUT...
HE WAS
DYING.
HE WAS
DESPERATE
TO BE
SAVED.

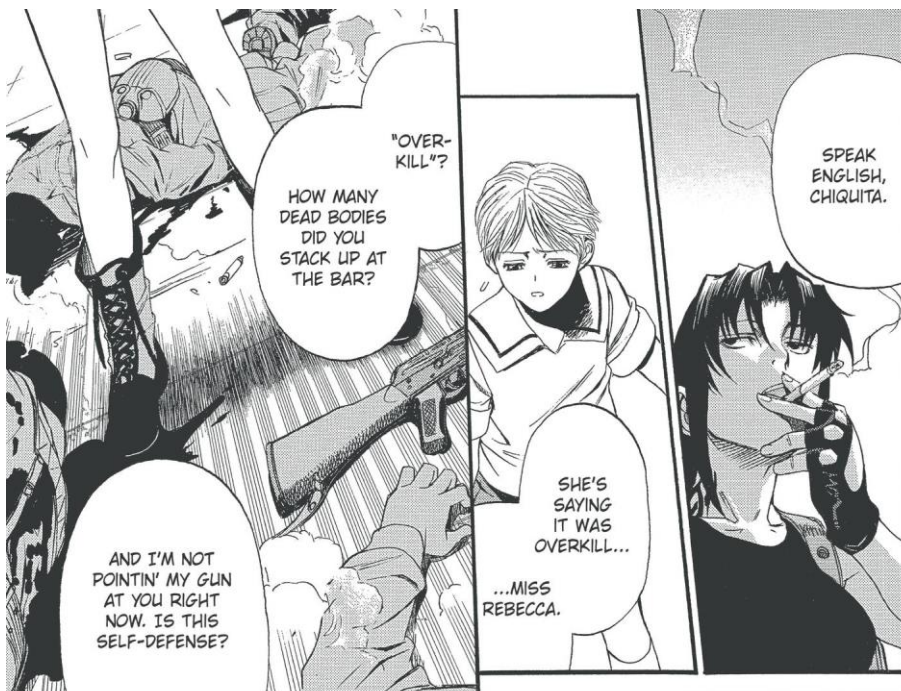
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

THE FIGHT'S
NOT OVER
TILL THEY'RE
DEAD.

YOU LEAVE
'EM HALF
DEAD AND I
PROMISE YOU
YOU'LL HAVE
TO TAKE
THEM ON
AGAIN.

ISN'T IT LIKE
THAT IN THE
BARRIO?

*ANNIHILATION







WE STILL
HAVEN'T
CAUGHT UP
TO HER.

LET'S
GET
GOING.



SAWYER, YOU
KNOW THESE
ALLEYS
BETTER'N US.
LEAD THE WAY.

YOU'RE A
SMART KID,
YOUNG
MASTER.



WE HAVE TO
SAVE HER.

THESE
WOMEN ARE
PROFESSIONAL
SOLVERS. RIGHT
NOW WE NEED
THEIR HELP.

BUT...



...
FABIOLA.

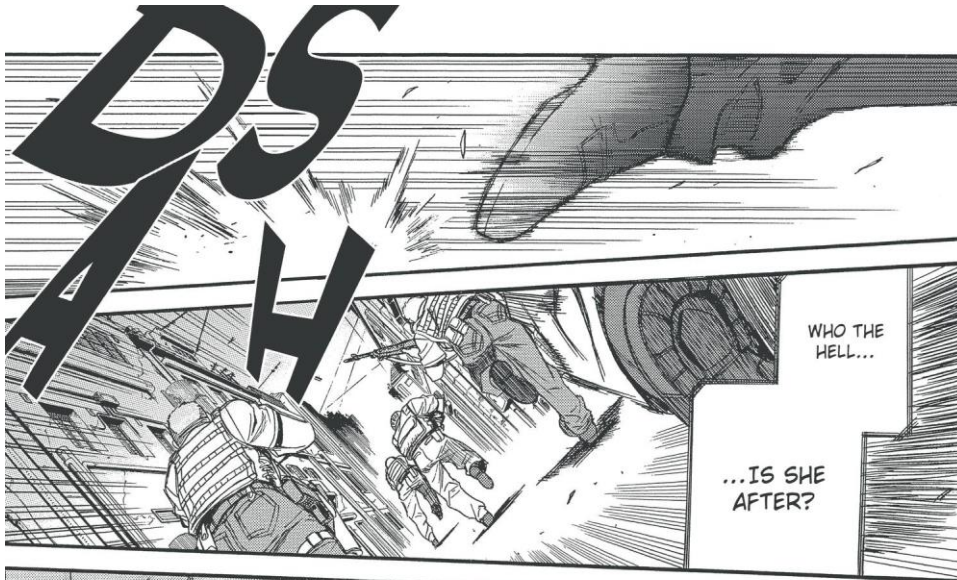




Chapter 61: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XVIII

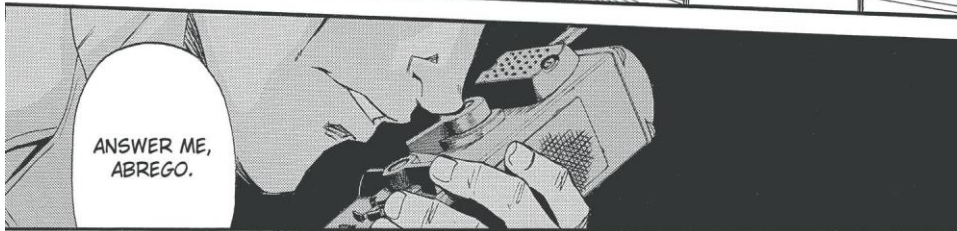






WHO THE
HELL...

...IS SHE
AFTER?



ANSWER ME,
ABREGO.



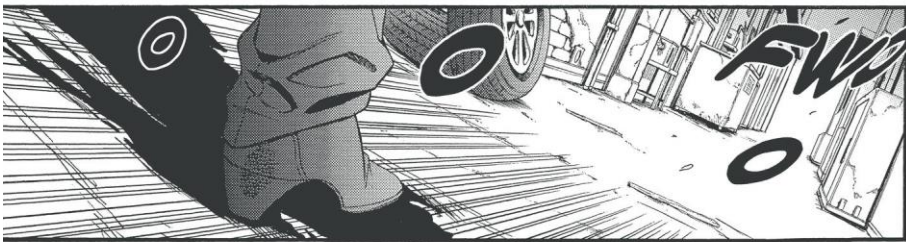
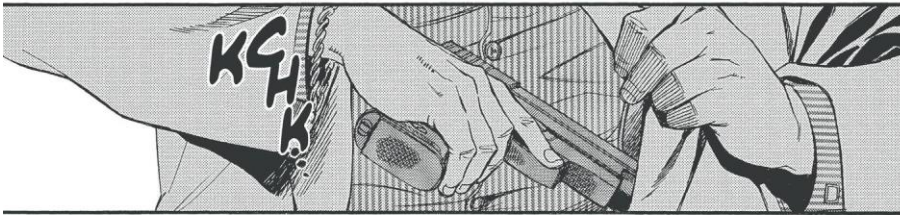
LET ME
PUT THIS
TO YOU
STRAIGHT.

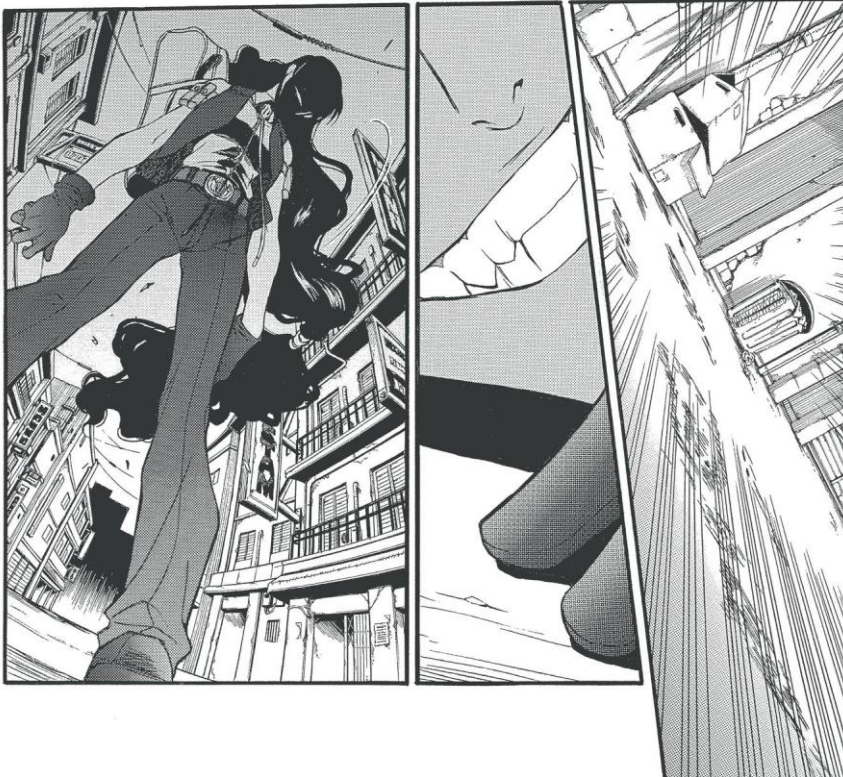
I TRUST YOU
EVEN LESS
THAN THE
ENEMY NOW.

ALL WE
HEARD
WAS THAT
SHE WAS
HERE IN
TOWN.

BUT WE
OPEN THE LID
AND EVERY
SINGLE THING
CONTRADICTS
WHAT WE
WERE TOLD.









TMP

BE READY FOR ANYTHING AND DON'T SPREAD OUT.

ROGER THAT.

ROGER.

THIS IS THE BLOCKING TEAM. WE'VE SPOTTED THE TARGET!

SHE WENT INTO AN EMPTY BUILDING ONE BLOCK DOWN!







...IF
I MADE AN
ENTRANCE
THERE?

WOULD
IT LOOK
COOL...



...THAT
ELEVATED
AREA-

OH,
THAT?

NOT
A GOOD
SPOT FOR
HANDGUNS.



HEY.

DON'T EVEN
GO UP
THERE. YOU
JUST STICK
WITH THE
GOTH CHICK.

PAY NO
MIND! HE A
LITTLE BIT
STRANGE IN
HEAD.

YO.

WHERE'D
YA FIND
THIS GUY?



THIS SHIT'S
IMPORTANT
AND COULD
SAVE YOUR
LIFE. YOU
LISTENING?

BEFORE WE
START THE
FIREWORKS UP
AGAIN, LET'S
SETTLE OUR
LITTLE
DISCUSSION
FROM BEFORE.

HEY.

SHORTY!

...THAT WERE
TRYING TO RUN
AWAY. DID YOU
PLAN THAT?
WERE YOU AFTER
A LITTLE TASTE
OF ANIQUILACIÓN
OF YOUR OWN?

...NAH.

BACK AT
THE BAR...

YOU EVEN
WASTED THE
GUYS...















GOD ONLY
SITS ON
HIGH AND
OBSERVES.

THERE-
FORE...

MY GUN KILLS ITS
TARGET WITHOUT
DISCRIMINATION!

...THERE ARE
NONE BUT I
TO PUNISH
THE WICKED IN
HIS STEAD.



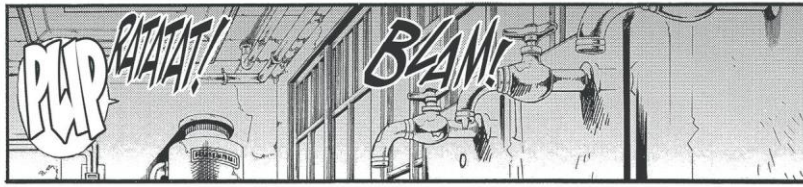






Chapter 62: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XIX





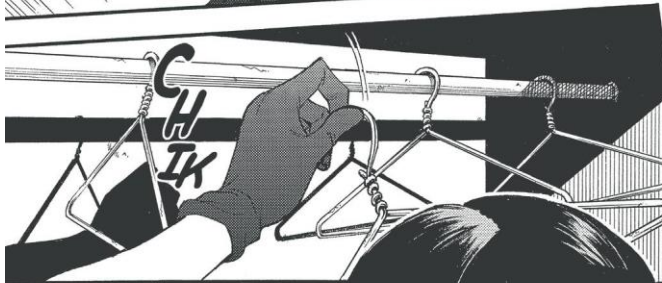
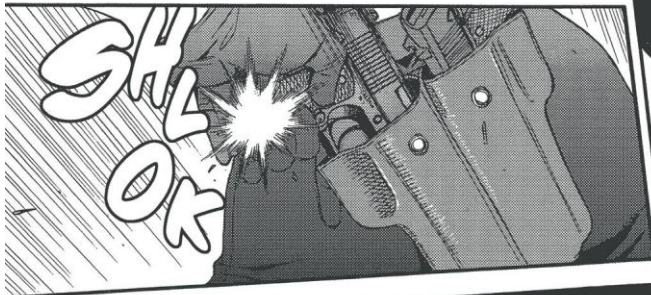


THAT'S THE BEST
WAY TO COOL OFF
WHEN YOUR
BLOOD'S BOILING.

...I KNEW THE
HEAD MATRON
HADN'T BEEN
FEELING WELL
EVEN BEFORE
WE LEFT...









EVEN
THOUGH
WE HAD TO
COME TO
THIS
HORRIBLE
PLACE...

BUT...

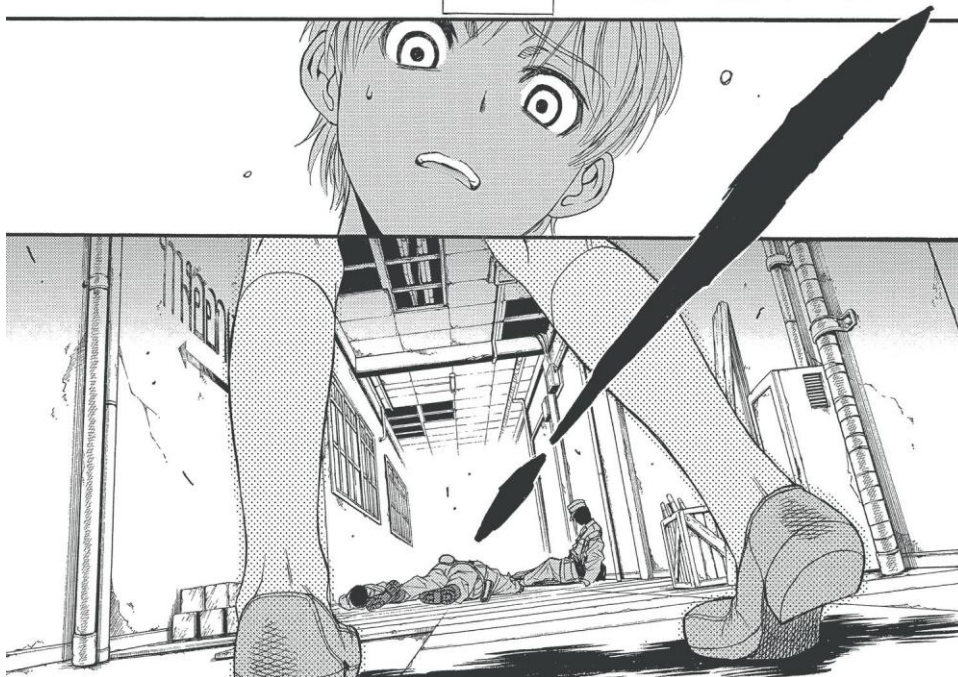
I'LL BE
THERE
SOON!



ROBERTA'S
HERE!

FINALLY,
FINALLY...

I'VE
CAUGHT
UP TO
HER!

















LOOK AT MY
UNIT PATCH.
YOU SHOULD
RECOGNIZE
IT.

GIVE
IT UP.

I KNOW
EVERYTHING
YOU KNOW.

BUT I'M
HERE AT
COMANDANTE
MARULANDA'S
DIRECT
REQUEST.

EXACTLY.
NORMALLY
MY JOB IS
TRAINING
SOLDIERS...

FORMACIÓN
ESPECIAL
NAVAL...

HAVANA...!



NOT EVERYONE IN THE CENTRAL COMMAND AGREES WITH HIM.

...THE COMANDANTE INSISTS WE TAKE YOUR HEAD.

YOU TURNED THIS INTO HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT THOSE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS TO HEAR GUNFIRE.

I HAD PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOOT YOU.

...DON'T YOU FIND THAT SUSPICIOUS?

COMMANDER VARGAS AND I HAVE A DIFFERENT OPINION.

I HAVE A DIFFERENT REASON.

YOU'RE THINKING, "WHY DOESN'T HE SHOOT?" IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE.



...FROM OLD MAN CARLOS, IMPRISONED IN SUDAN.

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WORTHY TO TAKE THE NAME "JACKAL"...

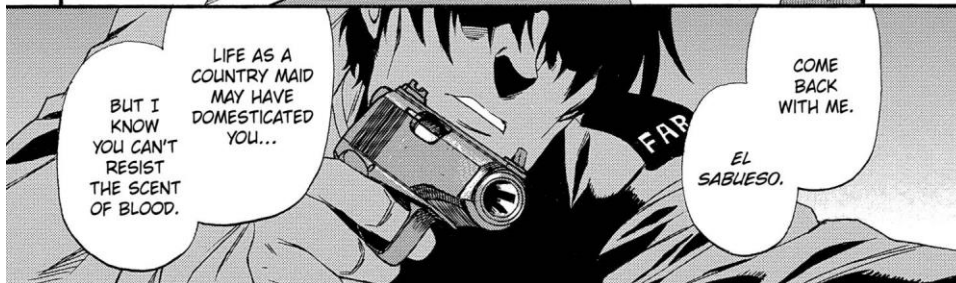
YOU WERE ONCE THE MOST PROMINENT ACTIVIST IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GUERRILLA MOVEMENT.



SKILLED PERSONNEL LIKE YOU ARE INVALUABLE TO ANY ORGANIZATION.

KACHIK

NOWADAYS GUERRILLAS COOPERATE ON A GLOBAL SCALE. NOT FOR IDEOLOGY, NOT FOR A COUNTRY, BUT FOR A PURPOSE.

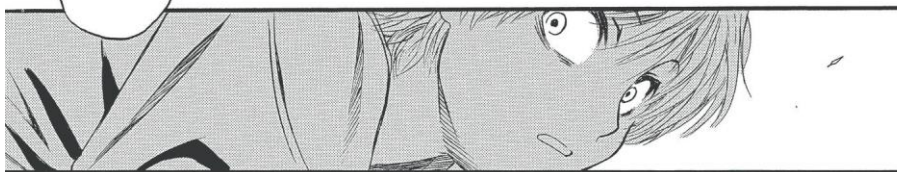


BUT I KNOW YOU CAN'T RESIST THE SCENT OF BLOOD.

LIFE AS A COUNTRY MAID MAY HAVE DOMESTICATED YOU...

COME BACK WITH ME.

EL SABUESO.





I DOUBT THE
COMANDANTE
WOULD
FORGIVE ME
SO EASILY.

...



...IN ANY
EVENT.

I WOULDN'T
MIND GOING
HOME WITH
THEIR HEADS
EITHER.



DON'T
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
ME,
ROSARITA.

THE TWO OF
US COULD
EASILY TAKE
CARE OF THE
AMERICANS.

MY WILL IS
HAVANA'S
WILL.

IF I GIVE THEM
THE AMERICANS'
HEADS, AND
VOUCH FOR YOU,
I DON'T THINK
ANYONE WILL
COMPLAIN.



...DON'T
GET ANY
FUNNY
IDEAS,
ROSARITA.

I HAVE NO
HOSTILITY
TOWARD
YOU. EITHER
WAY...

CHASING
DOWN THE
AMERICANS
IS OUR
PRIORITY.

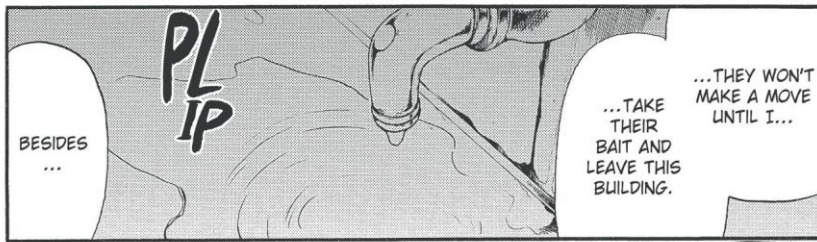
WF

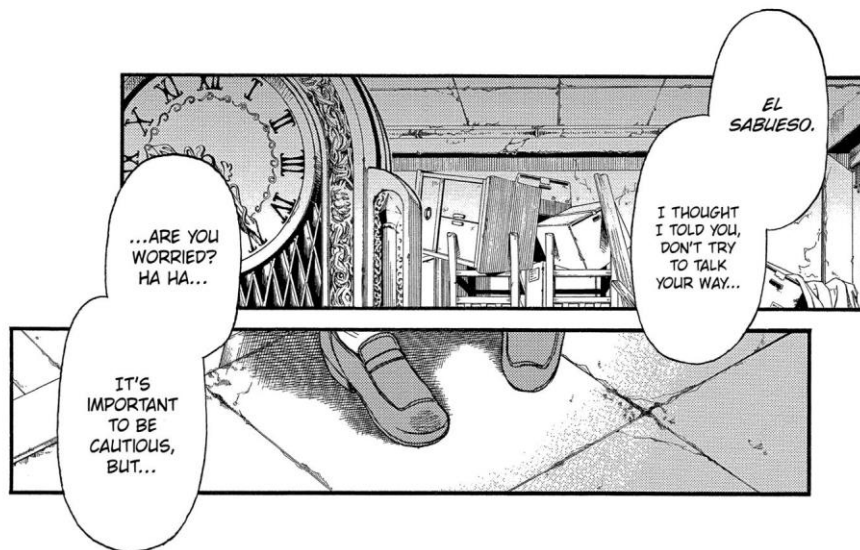
DON'T YOU
THINK IT
WOULD BE
WISE FOR
ME TO...

...GET
ON YOUR
GOOD
SIDE?

WELL.

CONSIDERING
WHAT YOU
JUST SAID...





Chapter 63: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XX







STICK OUT
YOUR TONGUE.





I'M SORRY,
BUT I STILL
DON'T
TRUST YOU.
DO IT
YOURSELF.

DON'T
MAKE ME
LAUGH.

...OR YOU
CAN, IF
YOU'RE
WORRIED-



...HEH,
HEH...

YOU ARE
CAREFUL.
FINE...



I'LL
TAKE THEM
OFF...
SLOWLY.

I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO GET THE
WRONG IDEA
AND SHOOT
ME.

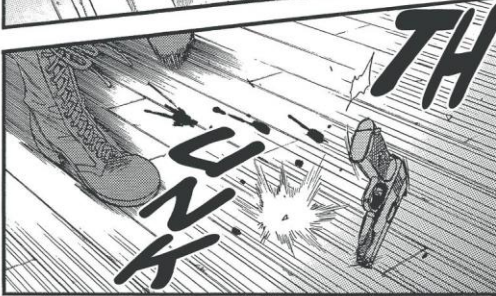


...STOP.

DON'T
RIP MY
CLOTHES...

I DON'T
WANT TO
FIGHT THEM
NAKED.

CAN I
TAKE
OFF...MY
PANTS?











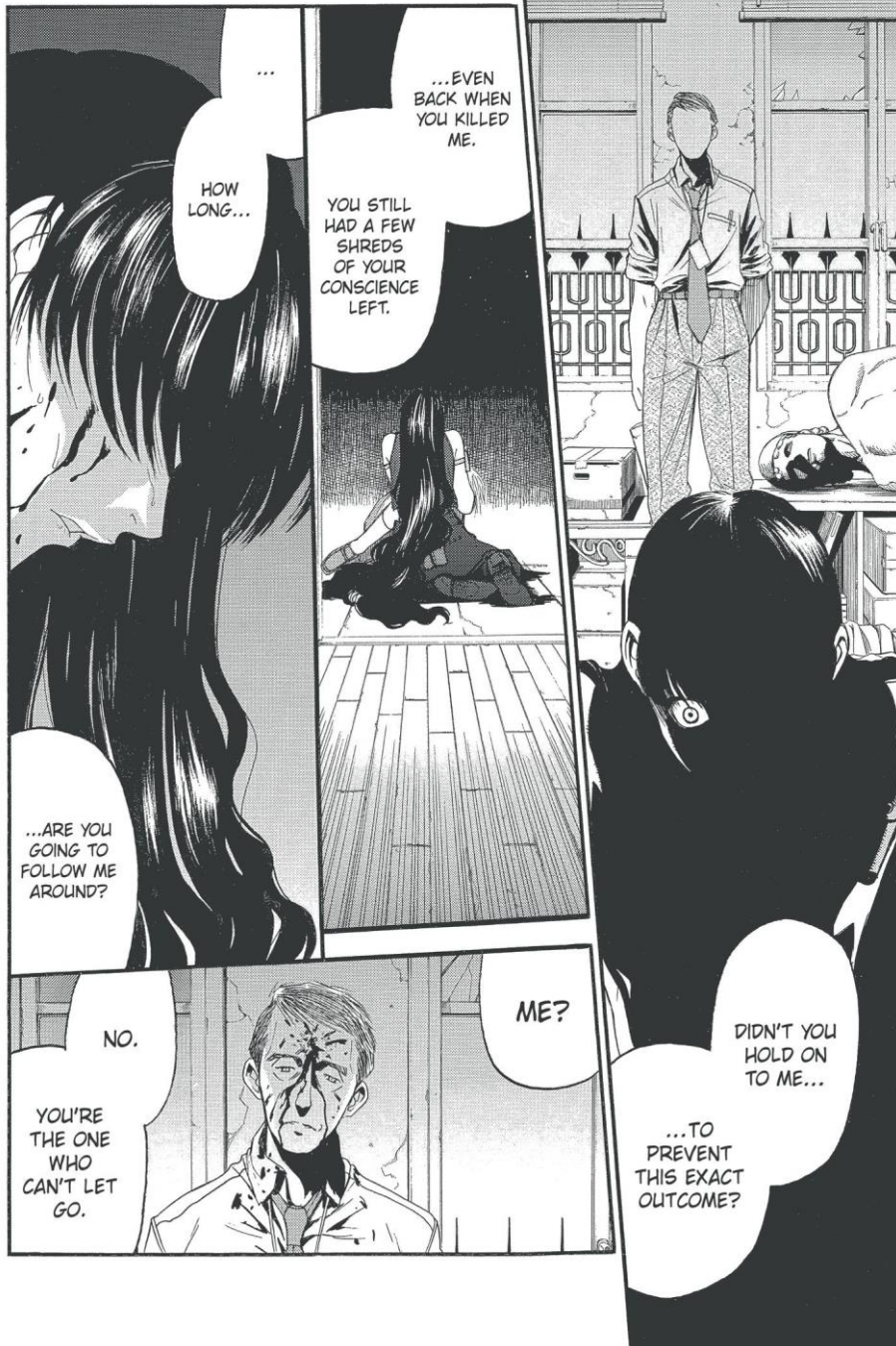












HOW
LONG...

...EVEN
BACK WHEN
YOU KILLED
ME.

YOU STILL
HAD A FEW
SHREDS
OF YOUR
CONSCIENCE
LEFT.

...ARE YOU
GOING TO
FOLLOW ME
AROUND?

NO.

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
CAN'T LET
GO.

ME?

DIDN'T YOU
HOLD ON
TO ME...

...TO
PREVENT
THIS EXACT
OUTCOME?



YOU TORE
UP MY
FAMILY'S
PHOTO
BEFORE YOU
EXECUTED
ME.

...AND
SHOT
DOWN TWO
JAPANESE
ENGINEERS
...

IT'S ALREADY
BEEN SEVEN
YEARS SINCE
YOU RAIDED
TAISHO
ELECTRIC'S
MAGDALENA
OFFICE...

IT WAS
PROBABLY
MEANINGLESS
TO YOU THEN,
BUT...

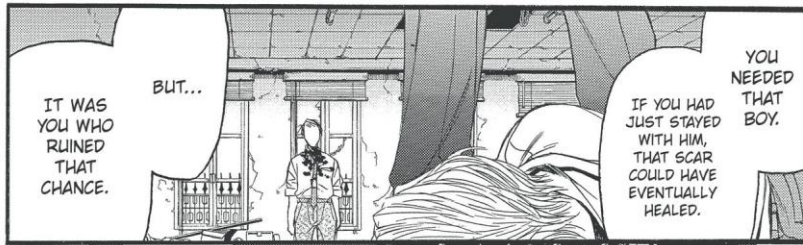
WHEN YOU
WERE YOUNG IT
NEVER PAINED
YOU DURING
TIMES OF
VIOLENCE...

BUT YOU
NEVER
REALIZED...

...IT BECAME
ONE OF MANY
TINY SCARS
THAT
REMAINED
WITH YOU.

...HOW IT
WOULD
ROT AND
FESTER...

...DURING
TIMES OF
CALM AND
PEACE.



IT WAS
YOU WHO
RUINED
THAT
CHANCE.

BUT...

IF YOU HAD
JUST STAYED
WITH HIM,
THAT SCAR
COULD HAVE
EVENTUALLY
HEALED.

YOU
NEEDED
THAT
BOY.



HOW COULD
I HAVE
CONTINUED
LIVING IN
THAT
MANSION?

OR IF I'M
DAMNED
FOR
ETERNITY
...

WHAT
MUST I
DO TO BE
FORGIVEN
?

...THEN...



SO I
COULDN'T
FORGET!

SO I
WOULD
NEVER
FORGET!

YOU!

YOU'RE
THE ONE
FOLLOWING
ME!



AND NOW
HE'S...

YOU EVEN
USED THE
YOUNG
MASTER TO
GET TO ME.



...OH,
I GET
IT...

HOW
COULD
YOU...



I SEE
IT NOW.
HA HA
HA!

...OH...

THE YOUNG
MASTER IS
WAITING FOR ME
IN THE ORCHID
GARDEN UNTIL I
COME BACK WITH
THE HEADS OF
THOSE FOXES.

OF
COURSE
YOU DO.
WHAT WOULD
THE YOUNG
MASTER BE
DOING IN A
PLACE LIKE
THIS?

HA HA...
HA HA.
I GET
IT...I
GET IT.

BUT THE YOUNG
MASTER WILL
LAUGH AND SMILE
AGAIN... AND
EVERYTHING WILL
BE AS IT ONCE
WAS.
I WON'T HAVE
TO PUT ON A
FALSE FACE
ANYMORE
EITHER.
THE MASTER
HIMSELF WON'T
EVER COME
BACK...

YOU
SHOWING
ME THIS...
YOU MUST
WANT TO
FINISH ME OFF
THAT BADLY,
HUH?

BUT...

I WILL NOT
FORGIVE
YOU FOR
THIS.
YOU'VE SHOWN
ME THE YOUNG
MASTER IN
THIS HORRIBLE
CONDITION.
YOU'VE
SHOWED ME
THE THING
I LEAST
WANTED
TO SEE.



HE MUST
HAVE COME
ALL THIS WAY
BECAUSE HE
WAS WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.
THAT IS
SOMETHING
HE WOULD
DO.

...
OH BUT
HE IS
HERE.

SH

HA HA HA
HA HA HA.
SILENCE!

AK

SOMETHING
GARCIA FERNANDO
LOVELACE, THE
BOY YOU LOVE,
WOULD DO, BUT...

GR O

EVERYTHING
YOU SAY IS
A LIE.

NEITHER YOU
NOR THE
YOUNG
MASTER ARE
ACTUALLY
HERE.

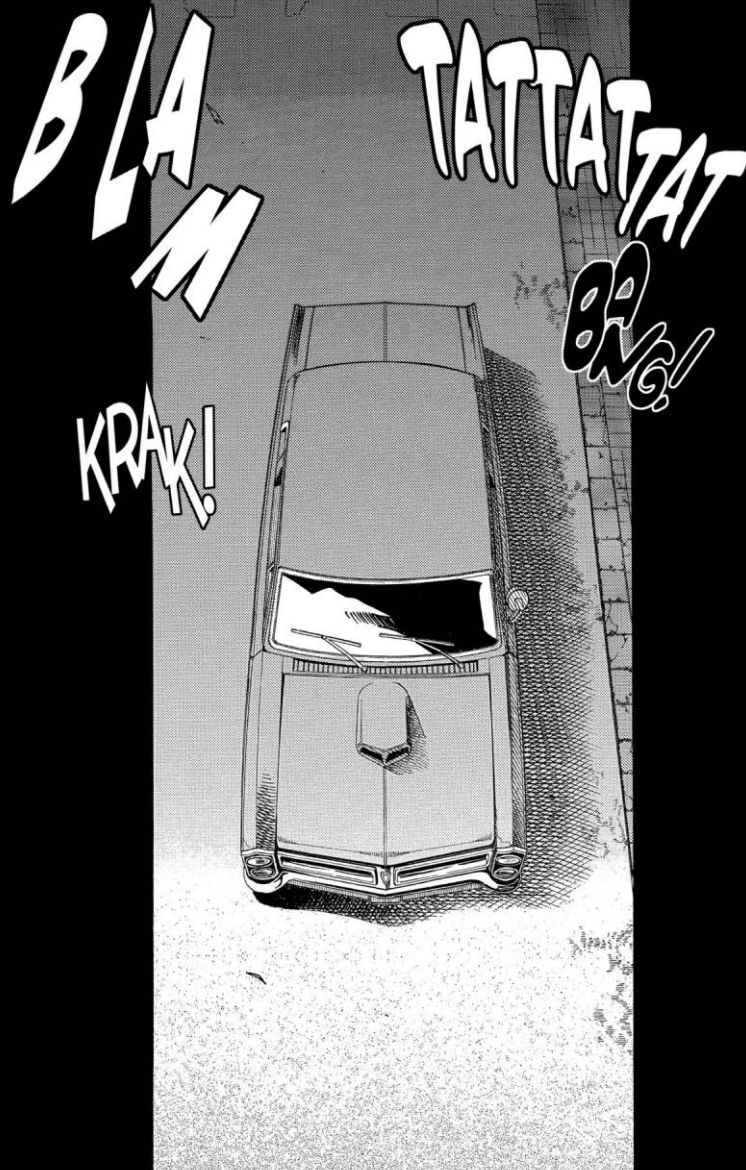
AND
I'LL...

RA

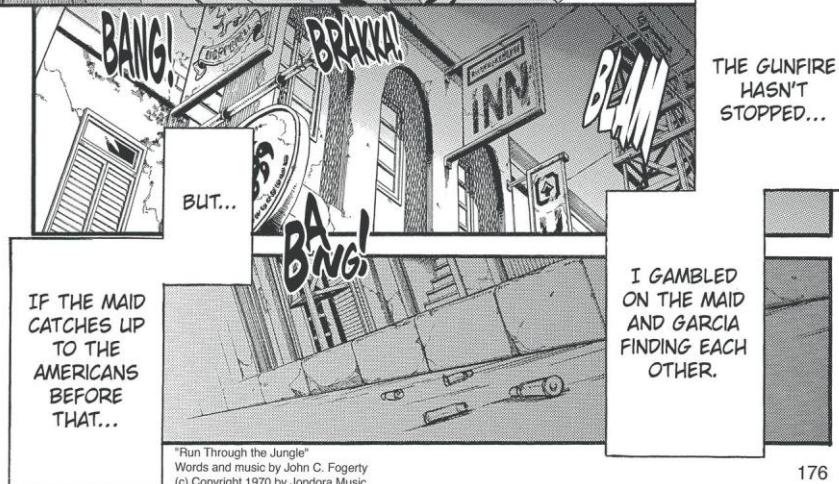
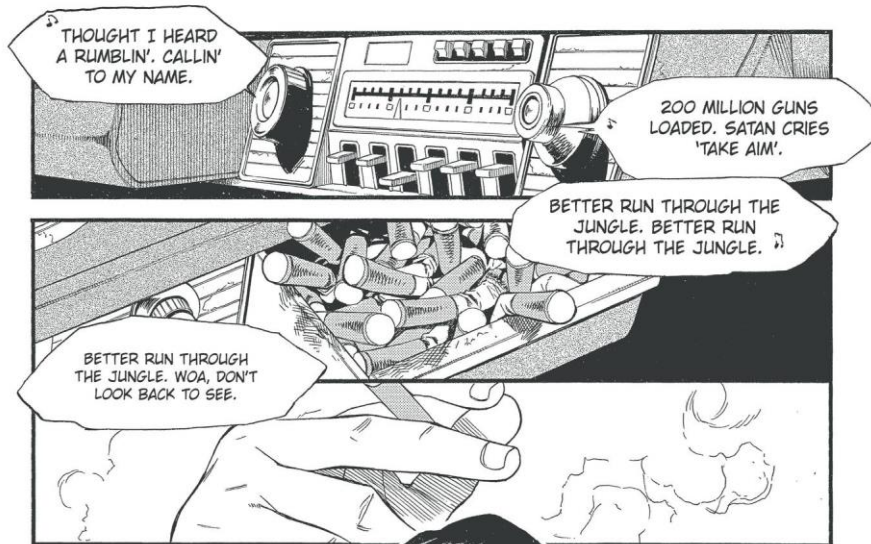
...PROVE
THAT RIGHT
NOW!

A

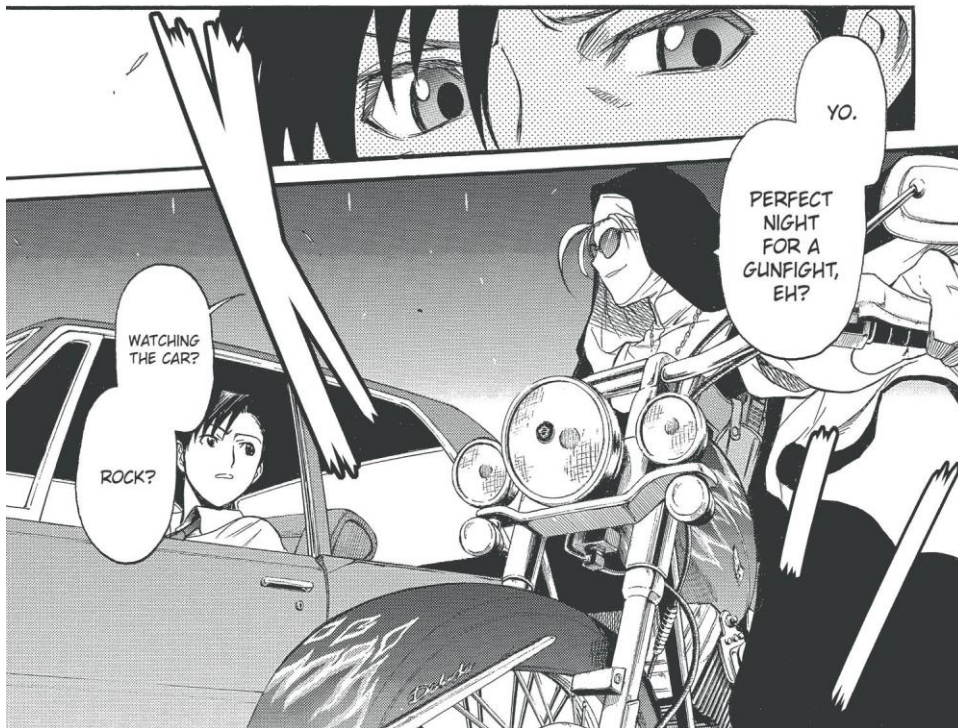
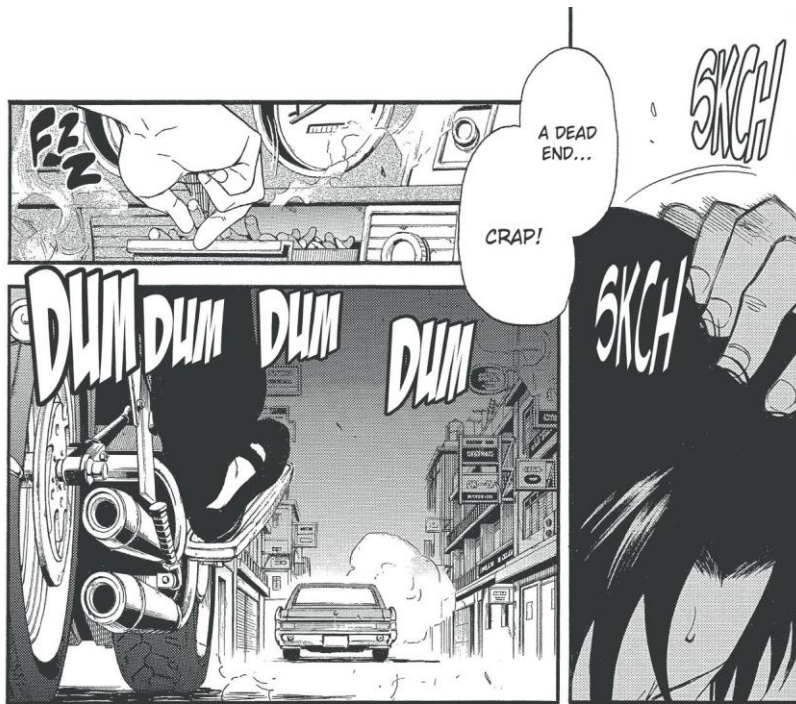
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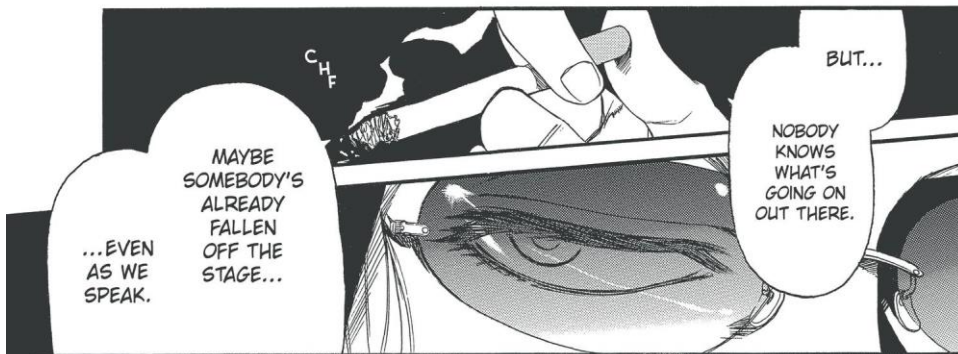
Chapter 64:
El Baile de la Muerte -
Part XXI



"Run Through the Jungle"
Words and music by John C. Fogerty
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...

IT'LL BE CLOSE.

...THEY COULD ABORT THE MISSION ...

THEIR REPUTATION'S ON THE LINE.

THEY WON'T DO THAT.

THEY'LL PULL IT OFF NO MATTER WHAT.

IF THE TIMING'S OFF, THAT'S DOWN THE TOILET.

WHAT CAN I DO?

SO...

WHAT EXACTLY CAN YOU DO?

THE PENTAGON WON'T BITCH ABOUT IT EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ...

...ALL THEIR RESOURCES ARE BLOWN TO SHIT.

THE CASES THEY HAD READY ARE WRITTEN OFF.

I'LL...

...SHOW YOU...

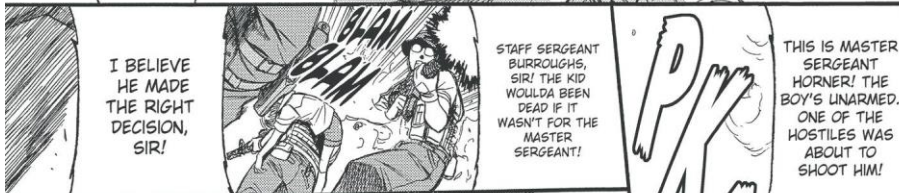
...WHAT I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.

GROAR











... SERGEANT MAJOR.

GENTLEMEN.

THE PACKAGE IS YOUR PRIORITY NOW. PROTECT HIM AND RETURN TO YOUR DESIGNATED POSITION.

IF YOU HAD LET THAT BOY DIE, I'D'VE KICKED YOU OUT OF THE UNIT.

WE'RE IN A REAL TRICK NOW AND THINGS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE.

OUR ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVE IS TO GET THE BOY CLEAR OF THIS FREE FIRE ZONE AND TO DO IT WITHOUT ANY CASUALTIES.

KAK KAK

ROGER THAT!

YOU MEN ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH OPERATIONS DESERT SABER AND RESTORE HOPE.

WE CAN DO THIS. I HAVE FAITH IN THAT.

THIS OUTFIT WOULD NEVER LEAVE A CHILD TO DIE.

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CALL. THANK YOU.

Sit!!

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

GENTLEMEN ?!

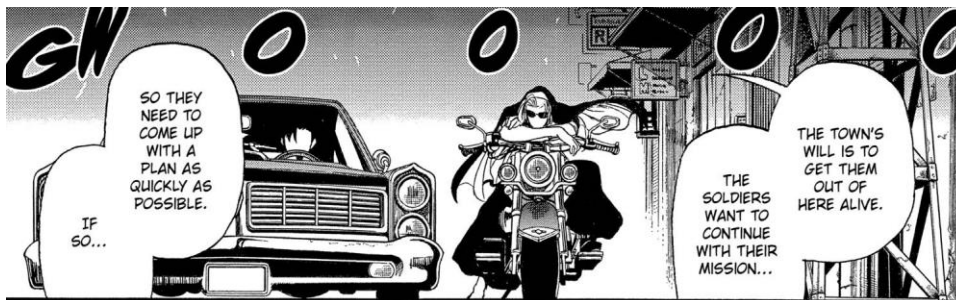


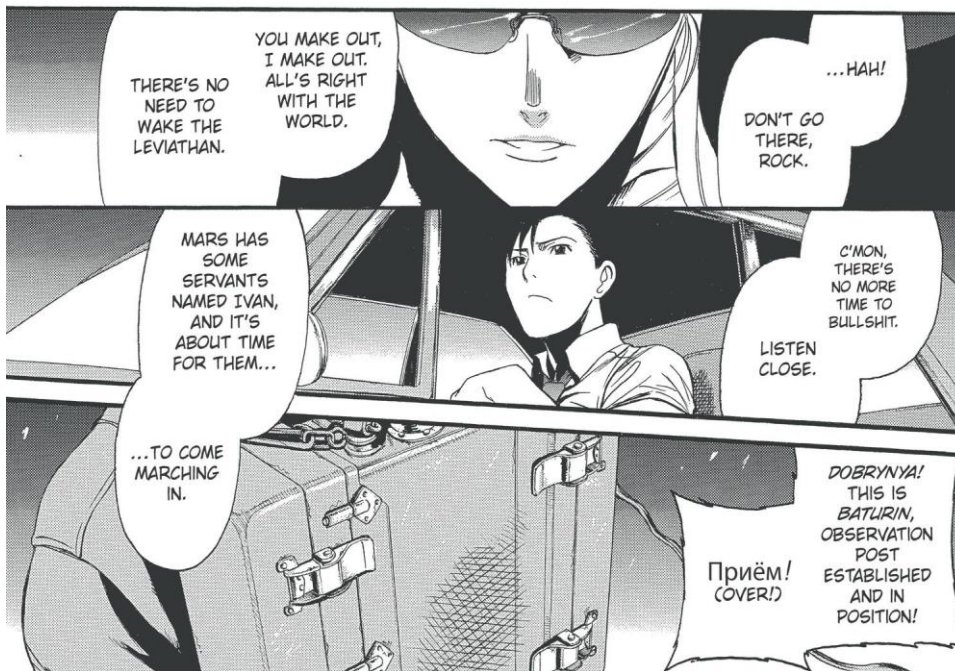
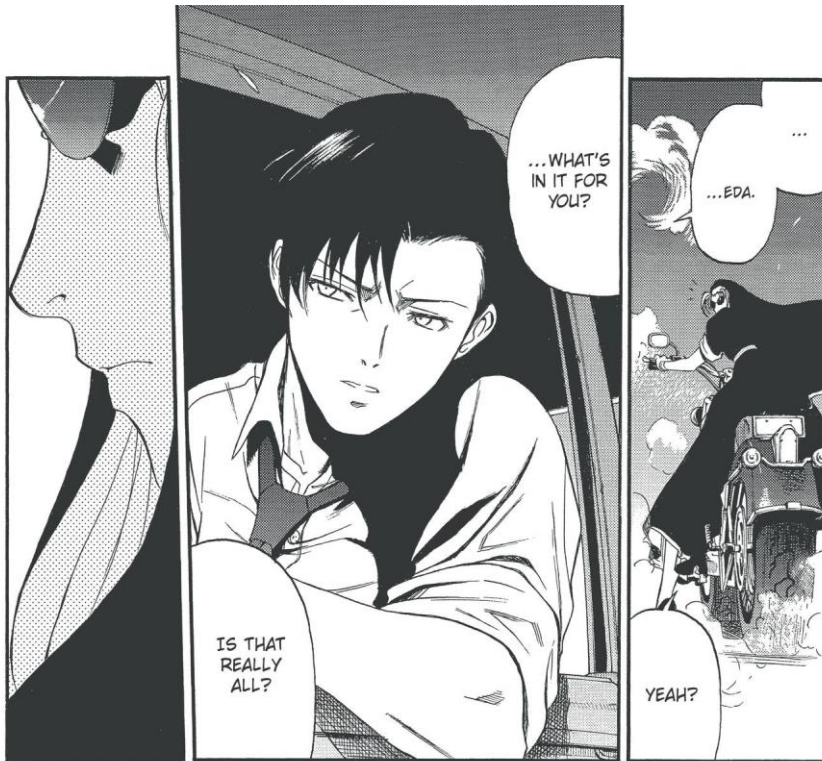
WHAT
IS IT?

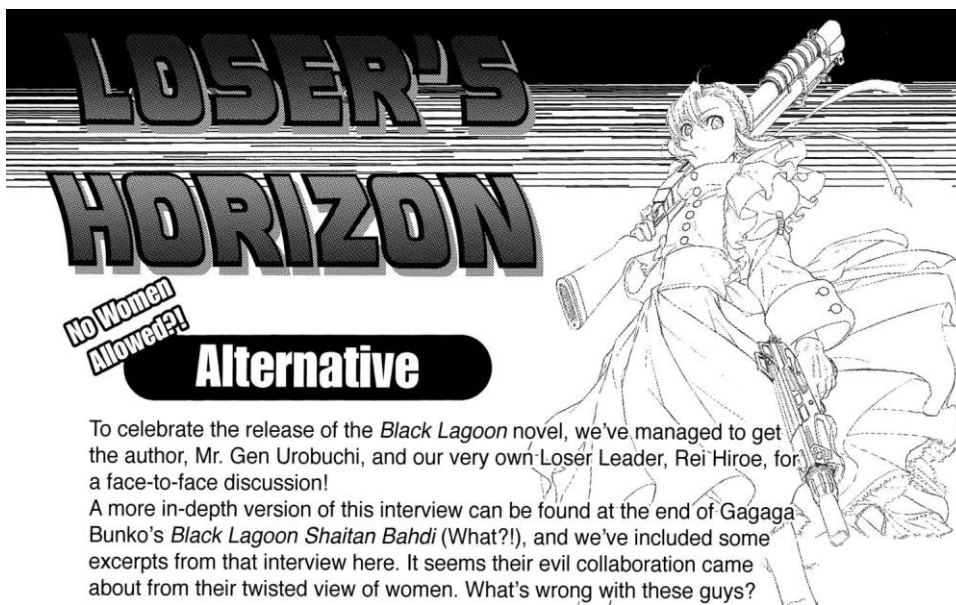


THE NSA'S ALL
CONFUSED
OVER THIS
MESS AS WELL.
WE CAN'T USE
OUR GEAR TO
CROSS THE
BORDER.









To celebrate the release of the *Black Lagoon* novel, we've managed to get the author, Mr. Gen Urobuchi, and our very own Loser Leader, Rei Hiroe, for a face-to-face discussion!

A more in-depth version of this interview can be found at the end of Gagaga-Bunko's *Black Lagoon Shaitan Bahdi* (What?!), and we've included some excerpts from that interview here. It seems their evil collaboration came about from their twisted view of women. What's wrong with these guys?

GX: Well then, can you two tell us about how you began collaborating?

Hiroe: Mr. Urobuchi wrote the script for the PC game *Zoku – Satsuriku no Jango – Jigoku no Shokinsha* (*Jango* for short). The first thing I noticed was what one of the heroines said when she opened her mouth—"I wanna eat me a virgin!" (laughs) It just got me right here (puts hand over heart). I was like, "This bitch has it right!"

Urobuchi: I'm glad the readers accepted that, but...

Hiroe: (sigh) When will the Bitch-Moe era come? (laugh)

Urobuchi: Women are like monsters—I want them to be something scary. That's why there's a part of me that can't get excited over those childhood classmate types that are everywhere.

Hiroe: There's nothing wrong with that. We don't have to create a story like that when there are other people who do it better. Let's keep creating women that scream, "I wanna eat me a virgin!" (laughs)

Urobuchi: I naturally have this idea that women are strong or tough. Like men are just male bees—creatures that should die once they ejaculate!

Hiroe: (big laugh)

Urobuchi: In that sense men are weak. Whereas the battle begins for women once they get pregnant.

Hiroe: I agree.

Urobuchi: Women have to keep fighting. I don't see that kind of strength as cute. I can't dote on it.

Hiroe: On the other hand, some people think girls that are sad are cute. To put it more plainly, you know how some turn a weak girl into the heroine? In the end that's just the flip side of machismo, don't you think?

Urobuchi: Just goes to show men can't be superior unless they give women a handicap.

Hiroe: Yeah, yeah. In the end, the heroines are below them.



Hiroe: Mr. Urobuchi and I probably can't see it like that. We're more like, "We love women like Thatcher (former British prime minister)!!" (laughs)

Urobuchi: Yeah. (laughs) That's why when other people write about an extremely hard-working girl, they have to be a bit Lolita. If they had tits they wouldn't have to work so hard. (laughs) When I'm joking with my friends I passionately argue that the size of a girl's tits is equal to the size of their hitpoints. (laughs) The bigger the sturdier.

Hiroe: Interesting. (laughs)

Urobuchi: That's why when girls with big tits get attacked by monsters in movies and games, in a sense you can watch it in peace. You don't feel as bad when you see them die.

Hiroe: Yeah... Yeah? (laughs)

Urobuchi: I don't see that as picking on the weak. It's more like watching Wild Kingdom.

Hiroe: (laughs) Like, "You got those huge things, so get in there and fight!" (laughs)

Urobuchi: So if you really want to make characters like that pitiful, they have to be flat-chested... So it has to be either Lolita or bitch—two extremes. (laughs)

Hiroe: That's a real extreme way to place value on women—although I'm not one to talk. (laughs) If you want to make them cute or put them under your protection, I can see why. If not it's like, become independent and do something about it, because a girl can shoot an AK too.

Urobuchi: I believe men have a superior position in the structure of society as a kind of a defense mechanism. Men will die out if they're not held superior. Because honestly, if you could artificially create sperm we wouldn't need men, right?

Hiroe: Yeah.

Urobuchi: It might be harder to pass down your genes if men weren't superior. Some women are put at a disadvantage because of that, so I do feel bad about it. But maybe men are such worthless creatures that they have to go that far to survive.

Hiroe: I'm getting the feeling that kind of social system...

広江礼威

HIROE HIROE

PROFILE

Born in Kangawa in 1972. After working at a game company, debuts as a professional manga artist with the release of *Hisuikyokitan*. Notable works include *Shook Up!* and *Phantom Bullet*. Released his first collection of artwork and early illustrations in *Barrage: Rei Hiroe Artworks*. Writes the illustration column *REIGHBORHOOD* for the model magazine *Monthly Hobby Japan*.

LOSER'S HORIZON

虚淵

GEN UROBUCHI

玄

PROFILE

Born in Tokyo in 1972. Exclusive screenwriter for game maker Nitro+. Debuted in 2000 with *Phantom - Phantom of Inferno*. Notable work include *Saya no Uta* and *Zoku - Satsuriku no Jango - Jigoku no Shokinkubi*. Also working as a novelist on the novel *Fate/Zero* for Type-Moon's PC game *Fate/stay night*.

Hiroe:...In the end its advantageous to women. If men work, they can raise their "seed" without fear. After all, I can't look women in the eye... Women are super scary!

Urobuchi: Plus in today's world, manual labor doesn't have to be done by men, so the position of women is improving. Men are constantly losing their status. So it's...hard for us guys.

Hiroe: Yeah. (laughs) So that means you're not manly right?

Urobuchi: I'm too afraid of women to be manly. I have this feeling I could never win against them.

Hiroe: I definitely feel that way too.

Urobuchi: When you think about the way humanity might evolve a thousand years from now, I think society should be based on women. A society without men would be much more efficient. If that were the case, the only time a male character could shine is when they die.

Hiroe: Interesting.

Urobuchi: So nothing gets resolved even if men work hard because men die after they fulfill their role, leaving the rest in the hands of women.

Hiroe: That reminds me of Balalaika and Boris's relationship...

Urobuchi: Oh, I can see that. Ms. Balalaika is scary.



A rough sketch from Gagaga Bunko's *Black Lagoon Shaitan Bahdi*.

LOSER'S HORIZON

Urobuchi: She's a female with fangs.

Hiroe: Yes. (laughs) I like scary women, but I also like cool women too. You know that scene in *Jango* where all three bitch characters are lined up? That scene is cool because each character has a unique quality to them. They balance each other out, yet their strength as women was captured really well.

Urobuchi: Women can still be cool even if they're unfair or uber-evil.

Hiroe: Yeah, yeah. It gets too raw if men are like that.

Urobuchi: It looks intelligent when women are like that. Not in the sense that they can use dirty tricks because they're inferior, but more like they'll use those tricks without any hesitation. It's more efficient in a way. They're not swayed by some nonsense about aesthetics.

Hiroe: The only aesthetic is machismo. (laughs)

Urobuchi: Exactly! Because we focus on that too much, it becomes a weakness. That's why it's hard for me to read really macho, hard-boiled material. I can't follow it. I want men to be rushing to their deaths.

Hiroe: Women can avoid those situations. Women remain! Men thoughtlessly charge in and die. (laughs)

GX: I'm sure both of you like the movie *The Wild Bunch*. Right before the climax, the four bad guys raid the Mexican Army to save their captured friends. Before they do that, they buy prostitutes, and after they sleep with them, the men prepare for battle, but the prostitutes quietly put on their clothes and send them on their way. Don't you think that's a memorable scene?

Hiroe: That is a great scene!

Urobuchi: They shined just before they died. And that scene where those four are side-by-side and go walking toward the enemy's base.

Hiroe: It's so unfair but it's so cool!

Urobuchi: They shine the moment they decide where they're going to die.

Hiroe: They're already dead at that point. That's what's so cool. They have no intention of getting out alive.

Urobuchi: That's really the only moment men can compete with women, I think. There'd have to be a third world war for men to shine. Like a *Mad Max* type of world. (laughs) Maybe only when there's a real danger of extinction will men have a role. Right now this society could exist only with women.

Hiroe: If women die out and only men survive, we'll only last for one generation. (laughs) One thing we made clear here is that we do not believe in machismo.

Urobuchi: Yeah. (laughs)

GX: Well I hope you two continue creating cool women and men who shine at their deaths!

Monthly Sunday GX Editorial Office
Gagaga Bunko Editorial Office

AFTERWORD

HIROE HERE. THIS IS VOLUME EIGHT.
IT'S A CONTINUATION OF ROBERTA'S STORY. I DIDN'T
EXPECT IT TO GO ON THIS LONG. IT'S ALMOST OVER, SO
BEAR WITH ME.

INSTEAD OF THE REGULAR BONUS MATERIAL, WE
INCLUDED MY MEANINGLESS DISCUSSION WITH MR.
HIROBUCHI. THE NOVEL VERSION ALSO REVEALS HOW
STUPID I AM, SO IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU COULD READ
THAT AS WELL.

OH YEAH, THERE'LL BE ANOTHER ANIME. (AS OF 2008)
YAY.
I CAN'T GET INTO TOO MUCH DETAIL, BUT IT'S A JOYOUS
THING. I'M GONNA WORK MY ASS OFF.

I'D LIKE TO THANK TO FOLLOWING PEOPLE:
EDITOR/MR. WOO
ASSISTANTS/ITAKO/AZUMA/TODA

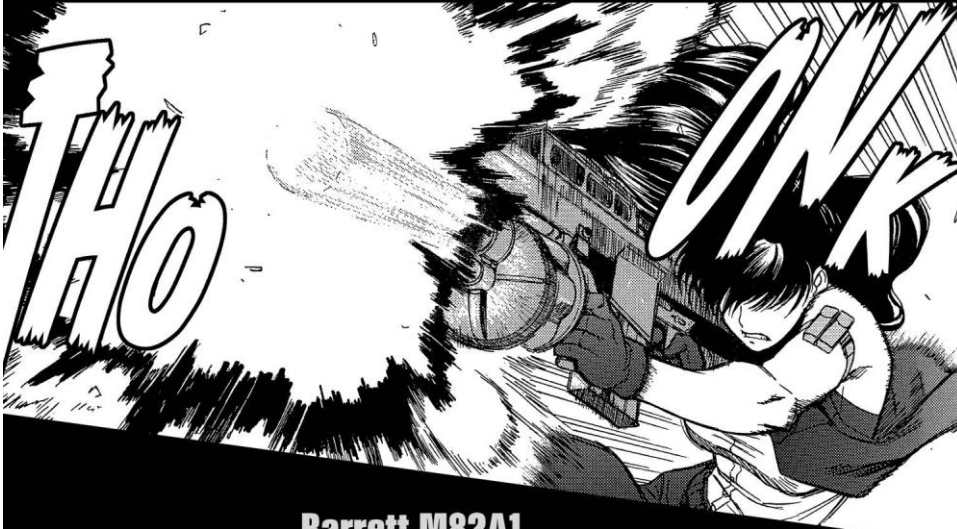
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SPECIAL THANKS
KEMUKEMU, DOCTOR MOCCHI, BIH, KONYA GA YAMADA.
SHINJUKU OUTLAW SURVIVOR.

I'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME NINE.

-REI HIROE, JULY 18, 2008



Barrett M82A1 Anti-Materiel Rifle

The Barrett M82A1 is a semi-automatic, magazine-fed .50 caliber rifle that went into service with military forces around the world in the mid-1980s. It's a huge weapon at 57 inches (145cm) long and weighing in at 30 pounds (about 14kg). The M82 has an effective range of just over one mile and a maximum range of four miles! This makes it an excellent sniper rifle, and the heavy .50 caliber round can also penetrate light armored vehicles, hence the anti-materiel designation.

Former FARC terrorist and Lovelace family maid Roberta uses a Barrett to decimate her opponents during the intense pursuit through the streets of Roanapur. There isn't much that can stand up to the powerful .50 caliber rounds, and Roberta knows it, punching holes in her enemies through whatever cover they may find. She has also attached an automatic grenade launcher underneath. This combination would weigh close to 40 pounds fully loaded—not exactly easy to lift with one arm, much less fire it accurately! But when you are one of Rei Hiroe's heroines, this deadly combination makes the perfect dance partner for a bullet ballet!

Editor's Note



Urban Warfare

Fighting in urban areas has always been one of the most difficult military operations and one that generates heavy casualties on both sides. The U.S. military calls it UO (Urban Operations), but among the troops on the ground it's often called FISH (Fighting In Someone's House). This is not inaccurate, as many urban battles are quite literally fought house-to-house, often with little more than a wall separating the combatants. Urban warfare is nothing new, but focused tactics for clearing rooms of the enemy were perfected by special forces and are now commonly used by regular troops and police.

Major Caxton's men are of course highly trained in this form of combat and employ it to great effect as they try to fight their way out of Roanapur. Shooting through walls, blowing out doors, circling back around on a pursuer—all are effective ways of winning a close-quarters fight like this (which even Balalaika admits not wanting to get into, and that's saying something).





Where do you think you're goin'?

With the release of volume 8, the English adaptation of *Black Lagoon* catches up with its magazine serialization in *Sunday GX* in Japan. This means releases of the *Black Lagoon* graphic novel will slow down. Until then, as Dutch would say, "Everybody stay cool!"



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**- Junot Diaz, winner of the
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FOR THE MODERN
READER."

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MIYAMOTO MUSHASHI

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